

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 DECEMBER 1984

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Implementing its siege on Khark Island, Iraqi planes scored direct hits on two maritime targets on 15 December, according to an Armed Forces communique broadcast on Baghdad radio. In a related report, the radio added that Lloyd's of London confirmed that the Greek tanker *Ninemia* had sent SOS calls and was burning south of Khark Island a few hours after being hit by an Iraqi missile. Maritime sources in Manama conjectured that the second tanker may have been Iranian, since Iranian ships do not normally send SOS messages when hit, the radio added. The *Ninemia* was attacked well outside the maritime exclusion zone set up by Iraq, AFP disclosed, adding that two seamen were missing from the ship.

On 16 December, minutes after Bahraini salvage crews towing the *Ninemia* toward Dubayy had brought the ship's fires under control, Iraqi jets attacked again, scoring with another missile, *GULF DAILY NEWS* reported. The Iraqi Armed Forces communique broadcast on Baghdad radio claimed that successful strikes were carried out on 16 December on a "very large maritime target" south of Khark Island and on another, smaller one, which was destroyed.

Lebanon

UNIFIL and the South — Lebanese military officials have suggested to the Cabinet that Lebanon give conditional approval to UNIFIL's deployment north of the Al-Litani River, according to diplomatic sources cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. However, in remarks broadcast by Beirut radio, Prime Minister Rashid Karami reaffirmed that Lebanon rejects UNIFIL's deployment north of the Al-Litani River, asserting that there is no justification for such a deployment. Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio broadcast Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that Lebanon's stand on UNIFIL is currently the major issue which will make or break the talks at Al-Naqurah.

In other developments concerning Israel and the south, the Lebanese Government protested to the United Nations over Israel's recent operation in southern villages while southerners themselves protested by staging a general strike, Beirut radio noted.

Security Plan — The Military Council will meet on 17 December to discuss and finalize the amended version of the security plan for the coastal road prior to submitting it to the Cabinet, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported. The radio, which broadcasts on behalf of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), spoke of a "positive atmosphere" over the security plan resulting from recent Lebanese-Syrian contacts including Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's 15 December meeting with PSP officials. Earlier, in a report on that meeting, Damascus radio said the PSP officials had informed Khaddam of their

party's agreement to the security plan, which will be implemented "within the next few days." Nevertheless, the PSP continued to distance itself from the Lebanese Government, asserting in an official statement reported by Voice of the Mountain that "the regime's organs" were responsible for the 14 December assassination of a Druze army officer.

Israeli Coalition Crisis

Minister Without Portfolio Yitzhaq Peretz submitted his resignation at the 16 December Cabinet meeting, a move that sparked off a coalition crisis because of the Likud's pledge to support Peretz' SHAS group by leaving the government unless SHAS obtains a full Cabinet portfolio, Jerusalem radio reported. In remarks broadcast by IDF radio, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi reaffirmed the Likud's commitment to SHAS, adding that the Likud-Alignment partnership will be jeopardized if SHAS leaves the coalition. Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir returned to Israel earlier than planned because of the crisis, the radio said, and if matters are not settled by 18 December, when Peretz' resignation takes effect, the Likud will leave the coalition. Nevertheless, SHAS has called on the Likud not to follow it out of the coalition, according to Jerusalem radio.

In another indication of differences in the coalition, Minister Without Portfolio 'Ezer Weizman stated in remarks reported by *THE JERUSALEM POST* that it is "regrettable" that Foreign Minister Shamir does not initiate more peace moves because Israel's relations with Egypt are more important than its relations with the Latin American countries that Shamir has just visited.

PLO/Palestine

The PLO Executive Committee delegated responsibilities while meeting in Tunis on 15 December, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported. Among other assignments, Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will be chairman of the Military Committee and Jamal al-Surani will be Executive Committee secretary. Vacant seats were left on the new 55-member PLO Central Council and on various PNC consultative committees, as well as on the Executive Committee itself, for the independent factions which could not participate in the 17th PNC session for "known reasons" so they may reconsider their stands, the radio noted.

In a separate development, a prominent Fatah military figure, Isma'il Darwish, was assassinated in Rome on 14 December by unidentified assailants, according to a PLO official cited by KUNA. A PLO statement issued in Tunis accused Israel's Mosad of the attack, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Meanwhile, concerning the issue of Palestine, Jordan's King Husayn stressed the need to amend UN Resolution 242 when he met last week with the British prime minister and French president, Amman's *AL-RAY* disclosed. On the PLO side, 'Arafat

claimed in an interview cited by AL-HAWADITH that he would accept a two-part state with "incomplete sovereignty."

Murphy Talks in Egypt, Jordan

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak termed his 15 December talks with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy "beneficial" for determining what can be done for the Palestinian cause when he visits the United States in February, according to an interview broadcast on Cairo radio.

On 16 December, meeting with Murphy in Amman, Jordan's Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri reiterated the stand on the Palestinian issue presented by King Husayn at the 17th PNC session, Amman radio reported. For his part, Murphy briefed Al-Masri on the Al-Naqurah talks as well as his talks in Cairo, Damascus, and Tel Aviv, the radio added. Later, in a meeting with King Husayn, Murphy discussed bilateral relations as well as the results of U.S. contacts with Syria, Lebanon, and Israel, the radio noted.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Egypt thwarted a Syrian-Iranian "plot" to have Egypt's presence at the meetings preceding the Islamic states' ministerial council in Sanaa declared illegal, Cairo radio reported, noting that instead the plot brought about a political demonstration of support for Egypt.

In a separate development, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, in a statement carried by TAP, expressed disappointment with the EC summit in Dublin for not affirming the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, for not strongly condemning Israel's settlements policy, and for stressing direct negotiations. Moreover, Klibi maintained that in addition to providing support for Lebanon, the EC countries can pressure Israel to accept the Security Council resolutions that would guarantee Lebanon's sovereignty.

Aftermath of Hijacking

Iran will try the hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner, but it will not hand them over to anyone else unless it receives in return the "terrorists" who have hijacked Iranian aircraft to France, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani affirmed in a 14

December sermon reported by Tehran radio. Stressing that air security should apply either to all airlines or to none, he warned that although Iran has not yet considered it necessary to join the "affray," there are people who would embark on "such action" should it become necessary.

Meanwhile, in a 14 December report on the hijacking, Kuwait's *AL-QABAS* cited a disclosure by "informed sources" in Washington that the United States had sent a special unit called "Delta" to an Arab state neighboring Iran as a prelude to launching a commando attack to set the plane free. However, Syria learned of this and hastened to pressure Iran to end the hijacking and preempt the U.S. action, according to *AL-QABAS*.

North Africa

Libya — The U.S. State Department's allegation that Americans working in Libya are in danger is baseless, JANA declared, contending that the U.S. charge is motivated by the Reagan administration's official policy of hostility toward Libya. Meanwhile, in an AFP interview, Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi warned French President Mitterrand against an American "trap" regarding the reported presence of Libyan troops in Chad. Al-Qadhafi suggested that a French-Libyan-Greek mission be set up, one that might also include Syrians, to inspect northern and southern Chad. However, the Chadian Government quickly rejected this initiative through its ambassador in Paris, Paris radio's international service reported.

Algeria — Soviet Deputy Defense Minister Admiral Sergey Gorshkov and his delegation left Algiers on 14 December at the end of an official cooperation visit, Algiers radio announced.

Mauritania — The new military rulers arrested deposed President Mohamed Ould Haydala and four of his top officials as they left their plane in Nouakchott after returning from the French-African summit, AFP reported. In a related development noted by MAP, Morocco's *RISALAT AL-UMMAH* attacked the visit by an Algerian Ministry of Defense official to Nouakchott right after the takeover, and claimed that the move was made to spread Algerian control and prevent a change in Mauritania's policy of allowing "mercenaries" on its soil.

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AFP: PLO Official Assassinated in Rome*NC151321 Paris AFP in English 1313 GMT 15 Dec 84*

[Text] Rome, Dec 15 (AFP) — An official of the PLO was assassinated in central Rome last night, police said today. They said Isma'il Darwish was attached to the PLO office in Rome. The man, in his 30s, was found dead near the Via Veneto last night. Police found a Moroccan passport on him in the name of 'Abd al-Rahman Kamal Muhammad, which turned out to be a fake. The dead man's identity was established today, police said.

Identified as Fatah Major*LD151744 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1659 GMT 15 Dec 84*

[Excerpts] Rome, 15 Dec (KUNA) — An official at the PLO office here has informed KUNA that Isma'il Darwish, who was assassinated here yesterday by unidentified persons, was a leading military figure in Fatah with the rank of major. The official added that it was possible to identify Mr Darwish after exhaustive contacts with the PLO leadership in Tunis which informed Rome's office of Mr Darwish's position after resident Palestinians here were able to identify him from his photo on TV screens.

The PLO has issued a statement condemning the Zionist Mossad gangs of assassinating struggler martyr Isma'il Darwish in the Italian capital yesterday evening while he was performing his duty.

It was learned from the police here that an eyewitness who was close to the taxi near which Mr Darwish was assassinated had overheard the killers calling him by name before opening fire, indicating that they knew him or knew his real identity and had followed him before assassinating him.

The investigation here has made no progress in the way of uncovering the perpetrators.

Reportage on Activities, Comment of 'Arafat**Accepts Invitation to Cairo***JN141151 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Dec 84 p 1*

[Text] Cairo — *AL-RA'Y* has learned that Dr Muhammad Bilal, member of the Egyptian Wafd Party, has extended an invitation to Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to visit Cairo. Reporting this today, the newspaper *AL-WAFD* said that 'Arafat accepted the invitation and promised to pay a visit soon at the head of a delegation of PLO leaders.

Would Accept 'Incomplete' State*PM141246 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 14 Dec 84 p 35*

[Report on interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat with unnamed *AL-HAWADITH* correspondent in Amman "immediately after the end of PNC session" entitled: "'Arafat: I Accept an Incomplete Palestinian State"]

[Excerpt] We asked Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] about the formula which King Husayn put before the PNC and asked him about the Palestinian state. He said: "I am prepared to accept a state with incomplete sovereignty, and not only one part but two parts.

When we raised our eyebrows in surprise at this answer, 'Arafat continued in almost a whisper: "Sir, we were Sabra and Shatila, which was neither a state nor a semistate. But I made Sabra and Shatila the capital of all the Arabs. Do you remember that?"

We did not deny it but asked for further clarification. He said: "I need a place to set up my Palestinian state and its institutions, and later I will know how to deal with the world and how to take the Palestinian people toward achieving their real and full objectives.

We said that the Palestinian resistance was armed in Sabra and Shatila and throughout Lebanon, whereas now it is merely a political force. He said: "Our military strength still exists. It is effective and capable of playing the role defined for it. We must not forget that the Palestinian army that stood fast 90 days before the Zionist military machine is an experienced and proven army. For your information, it was the first Arab army to use the computer in artillery."

We again asked him his opinion regarding what King Husayn proposed. Abu 'Ammar said: "What King Husayn proposed was a question which we must answer in accordance with our domestic and national interests. We are in the course of preparing the answer. The PNC has referred the matter to the Executive Committee for an in-depth study in the light of adherence to the National Charter and to the resolutions adopted by the previous PNC sessions.

Urges Restoring Military Option*JN151717 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1620 GMT 15 Dec 84*

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has reiterated the need for the Arab states to reactivate and restore the military option in order to obtain a more effective confrontation of the Zionist enemy and to give real strength to the Arab peace plan.

In press statements published in Tunis today, Abu 'Ammar said that the PLO, while struggling to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East, stresses the need to escalate armed struggle against the Zionist occupation in the main arena of struggle inside the occupied homeland, because it is the only language the occupiers can understand.

Accuses Syria of Misusing Fund*JN161905 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Dec 84*

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has arrived in Sanaa within a tour to acquaint Arab leaders with the

decisions of the 17th PNC session which was held in Amman last month.

In a statement to the press in Sanaa, 'Arafat accused the Syrian authorities of arresting the Palestine National Fund chairman and his deputy in Damascus and forcing the chairman to sign checks in order to withdraw Palestinian people's money from foreign banks. 'Arafat said that the Executive Committee withheld and then canceled the signing authorization granted to the chairman of the Palestine National Fund in order to avoid withdrawing the assets from the banks. 'Arafat described the Syrian authorities' action as dangerous behavior committed by an Arab government.

'Arafat Supporters Refuse To Join Islamic Unification
NC160656 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
 1545 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Information received from Tripoli indicates that contacts are being made by those responsible for the remnants of Yasir 'Arafat's group in the north with Fatah leaderships in Cyprus and Tunisia. The contacts are aimed at dealing with the pressure which 'Arafat's group is being subjected to by Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification movement and his supporters, particularly since 'Arafat's group had refused to join this movement.

Reportage on PLO Executive Committee Meetings

To Resume Talks With Dissidents
JN150738 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.) — The newly elected Executive Committee of the PLO held a meeting Thursday in Tunis and decided to resume dialogue with Damascus-based factions.

The committee, which was elected by the 17th session of the PNC in Amman last month, formed what it called a "dialogue committee" to contact the independent factions that boycott the Amman session. Reports from Tunis also said that the committee, which met under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat, also decided to form PNC consultation committees for the PLO leadership.

Fatah, the largest commando movement under the PLO umbrella, has already initiated dialogue with one of the Syrian-based independent factions, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) headed by Nayif Hawatimah. The DFLP, along with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Palestinian Communist Party and some leaders of the Palestine Liberation Front, boycotted the PNC session in Amman.

MENA: PLO Official on Egypt, USSR, United States
NC161818 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Tunis, 16 Dec (MENA) — 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, PLO Executive Committee member and ALF secretary general, has emphasized that a complete Palestinian consensus exists on

the need for Egypt's return to the Arab fold. He added that this consensus has been demonstrated by both the PLO Executive Committee and the PNC.

In an exclusive statement for MENA's correspondent in Tunis, 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad said that the Palestinians are not acting to obstruct the restoration of relations with Egypt. Rather, he added, the Palestinians are making the necessary efforts, in coordination with their Arab brothers, to ensure Egypt's return.

The PLO official commended the speech that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak delivered to the People's Assembly during the visit to Cairo by King Husayn of Jordan, describing it as positive in its approach to the Palestinian issue and to other Arab concerns. He added that Egypt's stands on the Palestinian problem, the Iraq-Iran war, and the Israeli invasion of Lebanon have encouraged the PLO to intensify its contacts with Egypt. He also said that contacts with Egypt were never actually cut, adding that Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] visit to Cairo was the culmination of these contacts.

'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, in his statement to MENA, went on to say that Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Egypt was critical, and was responsible for the Palestinian role during the ICO conference in restoring Egypt's membership therein. This, he added, encouraged many Arabs to take similar positive steps toward Egypt, such as that taken by Jordan.

Asked about the PLO's reply to King Husayn's initiative, he said that the PLO Executive Committee has created a five-member committee to engage in dialogue with Jordan. The committee, consisting of Faruq Qaddumi, 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, Mahmud 'Abbas, 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, and Fahd al-Qawasimah, will study King Husayn's PNC speech and will present its comments to the PLO Executive Committee. The Palestinian position will be predicated upon those comments and will be conveyed to Jordan in early January, prior to the initiation of dialogue.

Asked about recent reports that the United States has responded to a number of Palestinian questions, 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad said that certain Arab brothers asked the PLO to embark on an initiative. The PLO then put forth a number of questions, which were conveyed indirectly to the U.S. Administration, which failed to respond.

On relations with those Palestinian factions that failed to attend the PNC meeting in Amman, he said that a committee has been created to initiate a dialogue with those organizations and individuals that are prepared to accept a dialogue on the basis of the PNC resolutions. This dialogue will determine the status of these organizations.

Asked about Arab actions in the Arab and international arenas, and about the Palestinian opinion of a post-PNC meeting, the PLO official said that four delegations have been set up. Yasir 'Arafat will lead one to the Arab countries, Jamal al-Surani will lead a delegation to East Europe, 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad will lead one to the friendly countries in Asia, and 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya will take a delegation to Latin America.

Asked about the PLO's relations with the Soviet Union and the Soviet Union's failure to attend the PNC meeting in Amman, he said that relations with the Soviet Union have never been severed. He added: We share a mutual understanding of our positions. He also noted that a ranking PLO delegation will visit the Soviet Union soon.

Committee Assigns Tasks

JN161836 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1618 GMT
16 Dec 84

[Text] Under Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the PLO Executive Committee concluded a meeting in Tunis last night. During the meeting, the Executive Committee discussed a number of topics related to bolstering Palestinian struggle on all levels. The PLO Executive Committee also distributed tasks to its members. The distribution of tasks is as follows:

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Brother Abu 'Ammar will be chairman of the Military Committee;
Brother Jamal al-Surani, secretary;
Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the Political Department;
Brother Fahd al-Qawasimi, head of the Occupied Homeland Affairs Department;
Brother Muhammad Milhim, chairman of the Education Committee;
Brother 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, chairman of the Committee for Popular Organizations and Social Affairs;
Bishop Iliya Khuri, member;
'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, member;
and Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member.

The PLO Executive Committee also named the members of the new PLO Central Council, which has 55 members, and formed a number of consultative committees for the PNC. They are as follows:

Dr Nabil Sha'th for the Social Reforms Committee [Lajnat al-Islah al-Ijtima'i];
Salih Barghuthy for the Fact-Finding Committee;
Qusay al-'Abadilah for the Control and Auditing Committee;
Khalid al-Hasan for the Parliamentary and Foreign Relations Committee;
Fiamid Abu Sittah for the Occupied Homeland Affairs Committee;
Dr Hanna Nasir for the Education and Information Committee [Lajnat al-'Ilam Wa al-Tarbiyah]; and
Dr Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani for the European Dialogue Committee.

A press statement issued after the PLO Executive Committee's meetings in Tunis last night said that it has been agreed to name the members of the new PLO Central Council, which is the link between the PLO Executive Committee and the PNC.

Our correspondent has learned that the PLO Executive Committee has left vacant seats in the various committees, including the PLO Executive Committee and the PLO Central Council, for the independent Palestinian factions which, for several known rea-

sons, could not participate in the 17th PNC session. These seats were left vacant to give them the opportunity to reconsider their stands, with the hope that they will join the march of national unity.

Our correspondent also said that among the new PLO Central Council are: 'Abd al-'Aziz Saqr, Fa'iq Warrad, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Haj Ahmad, Rif'at 'Awdah, Ibrahim Abu 'Ayyash, Dawud al-Zir, Shafiq al-Hut, Samir al-Khatib, Samirah Abu Ghazalah, Hani al-Qaddumi, Ibrahim 'Ayyad, Yasin al-Sharif, Sabri Jiriyis, Isma'il Isma'il, and Salwa Abu Khadrah.

To Visit Europe, Far East

JN160805 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Dec 84 pp 1, 19

[Nabil 'Amr dispatch]

[Excerpt] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is expected to arrive in Amman in about 5 days time after concluding his Arab tour which he will resume this morning.

'Arafat left Tunis for Sanaa late last night accompanied by PLO Executive Committee members Fahd al-Qawasimi, director of the Occupied Homeland Affairs Department, and Jawad al-Ghusayn, chairman of the board of directors of the Palestinian National Fund. 'Arafat's tour will include the GCC countries.

The Executive Committee delegations will begin leaving Tunis today on tours that include eastern European countries, the Far East, African and Islamic countries, and nonaligned countries. The delegations will convey written messages from 'Arafat to the leaders of these countries explaining the resolutions of the 17th PNC session.

The PLO Executive Committee ended a series of meetings in Tunis yesterday that were attended by PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih and the PNC presidency and during which a number of administrative and organizational resolutions were adopted.

Among the most prominent resolutions was the formation of the committee of the Palestinian side to the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, which are expected to resume during 'Arafat's forthcoming visit to Amman. The talks will deal with ways of carrying out joint moves in the international arena until the Arab summit convenes, and crystallizing a unified Jordanian-Palestinian stand to be submitted to this summit for majority Arab approval.

The Palestinian committee entrusted with the task of resuming talks with Jordan began its meetings last night under the chairmanship of Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and the membership of Dr Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu Mazin, 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, Brigadier 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, and Fahd al-Qawasimi. The meetings are aimed at drawing up the broad lines of the PLO's reply to the proposals that His Majesty King Husayn presented to the 17th PNC session.

It has been learned that the committee will leave for Jordan with the aim of reaching an agreement on a formula for joint action.

PLO Radio on Committee Seats Left Vacant

*JN162050 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1631 GMT
16 Dec 84*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the new PLO Executive Committee, which was recently elected by the 17th PNC session in Amman, distributed tasks to its members during the committee's meeting in Tunis yesterday. The PLO Executive Committee has left seats vacant for the independent Palestinian factions which did not participate in the 17th PNC session for several known circumstances and considerations. This decision was made in order to allow these factions to reconsider their stands and decide whether or not they want to join the people's march and return to their legitimate frameworks and institutions.

This PLO Executive Committee decision to leave seats vacant for those brothers is based on a high sense of national responsibility and concern for every Palestinian faction. It was made in order to avert the attempts of subservience, containment, and trusteeship. This concern is for national unity based on independent decisionmaking and the legitimate Palestinian institutions whose national function is promoted through democratic dialogue. This decision is also a clear expression of the Palestinian majority's efforts to safeguard the independent decisionmaking without being unfair to the minority — after this majority has restored the correct formula of democracy in the Palestinian arena.

If there are specific differences on this political issue or on a political step to which those factions have adhered in order to justify their failure to participate in the 17th PNC session, then the political program that the PNC approved at its 17th session is not totally different from the political program that the PNC approved at its 16th session — a program that won those factions' support and agreement. In other words, pretexts regarding political differences have lost their credibility. Thus, the Palestinian factions in Damascus can no longer adhere to these pretexts. We mean the independent factions, and not the agent and exposed tools. Henceforth, any adherence to those pretexts and claims should mean something other than political differences, as long as the entire issue is related to differences between the Syrian regime and the PLO. This regime has exploded all kinds of mines in the Palestinian arena in order to fragment its ranks, control the PLO, contain its independent decisionmaking, and paralyze its legitimate institutions.

The fact that the Palestinian leadership is fully aware both of the circumstances which those factions are experiencing in Damascus and of the amount of pressure against those factions has enabled us to understand the situation and to leave seats vacant for those factions. This gives them the opportunity to speak independently and freely, rejoin the march of the people and revolution, and perform their national tasks under the banner of independent decisionmaking and the canopy of Palestinian legitimacy. This decision has also confirmed Palestinian legitimacy's credibility in its efforts to close ranks and build national unity after achieving a great victory in the battle to safeguard legitimate frameworks and institutions, independent decisionmaking, and free will.

This decision calls for a return to light-heartedness and to the proper place for every Palestinian who wants to pursue struggle in order to restore his people's just, national, and inalienable rights. He who rejects this call — the call for returning to his Palestinian house — will not in any way be a Palestinian, even if the Arab capitals that protect him are the capitals of the world revolution that will lead its armies to liberate all the occupied territories in the world.

SANA Report on Habash Speech at PFLP Rally

JN151524 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1236 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Damascus, 15 Dec (SANA) — The PFLP held a speech rally last night on its 17th anniversary. PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash delivered a speech in which he emphasized that the PFLP will remain absolutely faithful to the martyrs and their blood and to the cause for which comrades and revolutionaries have fallen. He said: We will continue the struggle until we cleanse all Palestinian territories of Zionist filth.

Habash condemned the convocation of the Amman council in view of its dangerous political results and grave implications for the future of the Palestinian national struggle. Habash affirmed that the answer to the course of capitulation is the continuation and escalation of armed struggle. He said: We will work to establish a broad Palestinian front in order to confront the deviation, which constitutes neither an alternative nor a parallel to the PLO.

Habash praised the Syrian stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said Syria is struggling against the Zionist enemy, and therefore Damascus is the capital of steadfastness with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Cairo Nominated To Host Arab Parties Conference

NC152158 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2135 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Tunis, 15 Dec (MENA) — The MENA correspondent has learned from reliable Palestinian sources that Cairo is being nominated to host a conference of the Arab parties that participated in the PNC meetings in Amman and that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will attend the conference and deliver an important speech. These sources pointed out that representatives of these Arab parties had met in Amman on the periphery of the PNC meeting and formed a preparatory committee to prepare for this conference.

Arab League's Klibi Issues Statement on Dublin Summit

LD151600 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Tunis, 15 Dec (TAP) — Chedli Klibi, Arab League general secretary, has given a press statement following the stands adopted at the European summit in Dublin. It says:

The statement of the EEC members at their summit in Dublin, which once again affirmed their determination to continue their efforts for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, [words

indistinct] us confidence that the countries of the Community highly evaluate the links of friendship and cooperation that tie them to the Arab countries, having scised their international responsibility in maintaining peace and security in the world and having realized the important role they can play in finding a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. [Words indistinct] the statement did not give the Palestinian problem all that it deserves and was satisfied to refer to previous statements. We expected a progressive posture that would have placed on record affirmation of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination with all that it means and all its international meaning. However, at the time we expressed our appreciation for the call to Israel to abandon its unlawful policy regarding the establishment of settlements in the occupied territories, we expected a stronger condemnation of the settlement policy and that the illegality of everything that has been carried out within this policy since the occupation took place would have been emphasized.

Being convinced of the EEC's concern to make a success of the efforts exerted to find a lasting peace, we consider the Community's stress on direct negotiations as a matter of uncertainty in the absence of a European emphasis on the distinguished role that should be recognized for the Palestinian people through the PLO in its capacity as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The core of the Middle East struggle and the occupation of the Arab territories in 1967 was a result and product of this problem. Such a reference and the manner in which it is drafted is likely to give Israel an excuse to evade international negotiations especially as such a reference comes while intense efforts are being made to convene an international conference within the UN framework. Moreover, the course of direct negotiations without an international umbrella and with

out taking international resolutions connected with the dispute into consideration means placing Israel in a position that will enable it to impose its conditions throughout the region.

He added that what was expected from the Dublin statement regarding the Middle East dispute, was the announcement of an initiative which undoubtedly the countries of the Community more than any other are capable of undertaking, one previously referred to in EEC statements, and that is being stressed in the present circumstances more than any other time in the past. We would have preferred the statement to concentrate on international legality as a basis and not an alternative to settlement in order that the matter not remain ambiguous and that the settlement not remain based on the law of force and policy of imposing a fait accompli.

Regarding the Lebanese crisis we, while expressing our appreciation for the EEC members' posture of support for Lebanon's freedom, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, would like to state that Community countries are capable of exercising the necessary pressures to turn the Israeli posture of obstinacy and insistence on imposing conditions into one accepting implementation of the Security Council resolutions which alone guarantee Lebanon's sovereignty, freedom, and independence.

Also, the European statement regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war, which includes the Community's definite concern over the continuation of that war and the commencement of its 5th year [words indistinct] the countries efforts for a just and honorable solution, this posture, which we highly appreciate, requires work towards the adoption of effective measures that will end the fighting as soon as possible.

GULF AFFAIRS

Greek Supertanker Reported Hit for Second Time

GF170428 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 17 Dec 84
pp 1, 2

[By David Tucker]

[Text] Salvagemen from Bahrain had a miracle escape when Iraqi jets blasted a disabled Greek supertanker for the second time.

The tanker *Ninemia* was under tow and heading for Dubai, surrounded by a cluster of tugs, when an Exocet missile "appeared out of nowhere," tore into the vessel side and exploded inside the devastated ship. "It was a miracle no one was hurt," a Gulf salvage source said last night. "The first any of the salvagemen knew about it was when there was a terrific blast on the starboard side," he said. They cast loose the tow line, rushed around the starboard side and found a gaping hole. It was quite a shock."

Under threat of air attack the salvagemen began a desperate fight to save the tanker for a second time — the new attack happened only minutes after the aftermath of yesterday's inferno was declared "officially under control." Flames and black smoke billowed from the *Ninemia*, but because the salvage boats were on the spot they were able to quickly bring the blaze under control.

The missile that struck the supertanker was probably fired from around 50 kms away — the pilot of the Super Etendard fighter probably never even saw his target, which would have been enlarged on his radar screen by the shadow image cast by the escort tugs.

The salvage teams on board several tugs, including the *Sal Vanguard*, *Nordzee*, *Osca Guna I* and *Smit Rangoon*, had battled throughout Saturday night to douse the fierce fire caused by the first Exocet strike. Buffeted by strong winds and three metre waves, the salvagemen risked their lives time and time again as they braved the heavy swell to get in close to the stricken supertanker. It was only after the weather calmed yesterday morning that they were able to launch a foam attack and smother the blaze. Salvage sources in the Gulf said last night that the *Ninemia* was again under tow and taking advantage of darkness to get as far away from the conflict zone as possible in her second attempt to reach Dubai.

BAHRAIN

Amir Delivers National Day Speech

GF160730 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0540 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text of speech delivered by Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah on occasion of Bahrain's national day]

[Text] Manama, 16 Dec (WAKH) — December 16 marks a new stage in our development and progress, and another step on the

road as we build this beloved country. It is this progress we commemorate on this glorious day in our history. In celebrating Bahrain's national day, we celebrate the morals and the values which have guided us and led to the eminence and prosperity our country now enjoys. On this day we salute all those who have had a hand in building this country through hard work and a positive outlook. Behind all is the spirit of togetherness, a real devotion to Bahrain and its heritage. Through the work of Bahrain's people, the government continues to pursue plans to further our economic march at a steady pace, with policies that take into account our own means and potential as we respond to regional and world change.

The ambitions and aspirations of our area are now under the umbrella of the GCC — an inevitable historical step to boost integration and coordination between the member states, to maintain security in the region and to provide prosperity. The GCC has proved through tangible progress the real support which it offers to the Gulf, Arab and Islamic causes and international peace and security. The GCC Supreme Council meeting held recently in Kuwait was evidence of the organization's success and efficacy.

Events in the region make it imperative for the GCC states to consider the bitter conflict between Iraq and Iran and keep the area free from superpower rivalry. This being so, we call on the two belligerents to have recourse to wisdom and logic, and respond to the call for peace to protect their own interests and bring security to the region. Iraq has responded positively to all peace overtures, and we hope Iran will respond to the mediation efforts made by various parties to end the war.

We live with the problems of our vast Arabic world, and have a part in its causes and ambitions. It is distressing to see the present state of disunity, the rift between brothers despite the many threatening challenges. In spite of these rifts in the Arab world, we are confident that this country will work with determination and solidarity to further its goals and history.

Bahrain's influence extends beyond the Arab world. It supports every endeavor to bring about understanding between nations and further cooperation based on mutual respect and solidarity to bring peace and stability to the world.

Bahrain acknowledges the achievements of its people and the service they have rendered to their country. I am confident they will continue to work together for progress as they promote the concepts of unity and solidarity within our society. Bahrain stands proudly by its principles, and remains strong through the virtue of the men who have made its history.

Amir Inaugurates New Town 15 Dec

GF151448 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 15 Dec (WAKH) — Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, inaugurated here today Hamad Town as part of Bahrain's national day celebrations. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force; Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa

Al Khalifah; ministers; diplomats in Bahrain; businessmen; and a large number of guests.

KUWAIT

Further Reportage on Events Surrounding Hijacking

U.S. Unit Readied

GF151516 Kuwait *AL-QABAS* in Arabic 14 Dec 84 p 1

[Report: "U.S. Delta Commandos Prepare in an Arab Country To Storm Aircraft in Iran"]

[Excerpt] Informed Gulf sources disclosed to *AL-QABAS* that contacts took place between the concerned departments in the Arab Gulf countries in the wake of the hijacking of the Kuwaiti plane to Iran. The concerned officials agreed to adopt a series of deterrent measures to prevent plane hijacking operations in the future.

The sources did not explain the nature or details of the Gulf measures that were agreed upon but stressed that these measures are capable of putting an end to air piracy operations and of securing the safety of Gulf airspace for flights on all routes and everywhere.

It seems that these new measures are multisided. They were pointed out by Saudi Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz when he described them as capable of deterring air piracy. In a statement carried by SPA yesterday, Prince Sultan said that Saudi Arabia in particular and the other Arab Gulf countries have adopted such measures. He pointed out that because of not applying heavy penalties with regard to hijacking incidents, air piracy was being encouraged.

Informed sources in Washington told *AL-QABAS* yesterday that U.S. intelligence was able to record the conversation between the hijackers and the control tower in Tehran airport. The sources disclosed that an American unit known as "Delta," which is designated for special operations and tasks, had actually arrived in an Arab state neighboring Iran while the aircraft was in the Tehran airport as a prelude to launching a commando attack to free the Kuwaiti aircraft. The sources said that Syria learned of this and quickly hastened to mediate with Iran to end the hijacking and stop the plan of "Delta" unit.

Dubayy Cleaner Supplied Weapons

GF141336 Kuwait *AL-QABAS* in Arabic 13 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] *AL-QABAS* has learned from a reliable source that a cleaning worker at Dubayy airport placed weapons inside the rear toilet of the Kuwaiti plane during its stopover at Dubayy airport prior to its departure for Karachi, soon after which it was hijacked. The source added that one of the hijackers, who traveled in the first class section, went to the toilet and then returned from it carrying a medium-size bag which contained the weapons that were used in the hijacking operation.

The source pointed out that security measures at Dubayy International Airport were particularly concentrated on the plane of Princess Ann, daughter of the British queen, who left Dubayy on the same day enroute to London. Such a situation helped in enabling the weapons' bag to be moved onto the Kuwaiti plane.

Mexican Energy Minister Confers With Oil Minister

LD151109 Kuwait *KUNA* in Arabic 0955 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 15 Dec (KUNA) — The Mexican Secretary of Energy, Mines and Parastatal Industry Francisco Labastida Ochoa had a meeting here today with Kuwaiti Minister of Oil and Finance Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Adhbi al-Sabah. Official oil sources have informed KUNA that the two ministers discussed the latest developments in the world oil market and the means to strengthen and stabilize them.

The sources have stated that the Kuwaiti and Mexican ministers discussed oil market conditions from the point of view of the necessity of maintaining the stability of OPEC's official \$29 per barrel of oil and preventing exposure to any shocks that could threaten the price structure.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD161048 Kuwait *KUNA* in Arabic 1017 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 16 Dec (KUNA) — Mexican Secretary of Energy and Mines Francisco Labastida Ochoa ended a 3-day visit to Kuwait and left the country today following talks with Kuwait's Oil Minister 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah. The talks dealt with the development of the international oil market situation. The Mexican minister held talks before his departure with his Kuwaiti counterpart on bilateral relations and the latest development in the international oil market.

Sudanese President Arrives in Kuwait

LD151521 Kuwait *KUNA* in Arabic 1423 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Dec (KUNA) — The Sudanese president, Ja'far Numayri, arrived here this evening on a short visit to Kuwait on his way home from his visit to China. He was welcomed at the airport by the Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait; Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister; Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, deputy prime minister, foreign and information minister; and other senior Kuwaiti officials. It was announced that the Sudanese president will hold talks with Shaykh Jabir on bilateral relations, Arab developments and other questions of mutual interest.

AL-SIYASAH Interviews Soviet Ambassador

GF141616 Kuwait *AL-SIYASAH* in Arabic 13 Dec 84 p 19

[Interview with Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait Pogos Akopov by *AL-SIYASAH* correspondent Fathi Sharif — date and place not given]

[Excerpts] At the beginning of the dialogue, I discussed with Soviet Ambassador Pogos Akopov the Soviet Union's reservation to react to the recent increase in terrorist operations in the Middle East, in the Gulf, and in other international regions. I also discussed with him Moscow's abstention from demonstrating a defined stance toward a series of incidences of terrorism and aircraft hijackings — the latest being the hijacking of the Kuwaiti plane at Tehran airport.

The Soviet ambassador said: The Soviet Union continues to denounce, as it has in the past, all forms of terrorism. It rejects terrorism as a method to solve problems and crises among countries. We have reiterated this position several times, the latest being Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko's proposal against international terrorism made at the United Nations in September. This proposal rejected the use of terrorism against any state with the aim of undermining its social system and its sovereignty. It also called for the unification of efforts in order to restore confidence in international relations and work toward alleviating tension and eliminating the danger of wars. The ambassador added: We need not emphasize this position every day or whenever a terrorist hijacking takes place. Our stance toward this issue is constant. You can now quote me as saying that the Soviet Union asserts its full solidarity with the government and the people of Kuwait in their opposition to terrorist acts — such acts which jeopardize Kuwait's security and sovereignty. This stems from the Soviet Union's principled position of opposition to terrorism and violence in all its forms.

[Fathi Sharif] We would like, through you, to explore the USSR's perception of the issue of terrorism and of international terrorism being a phenomenon that controls international relations. How do you view the effect of this [terrorism]? What views and solutions do you propose?

[Pogos Akopov] We view the increase in international terrorism as being a phenomenon firmly associated on one hand with the escalation of tension and with disputes in the international political arena and, on the other hand, as associated with the arms race among the world countries and military preparations and even with the danger of an outbreak of a nuclear war. From this premise, we view the issue of alleviating tension as being a step that will snowball into creating a basis for combating terrorism.

[Sharif] How do you view the incidence of terrorism in the Gulf and the Middle East arena and the increase in the violent operations there?

[Akopov] The Gulf is part of the world. The Gulf has become one of the most tense regions in the world owing to the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war. I believe that the increase in terrorist activities in this region is associated with the continuation of this war, as well as with the increase of tension in the Middle East region. It is no secret that there is a firm association between the security of the Gulf and the security of the Middle East. Moreover, this simmering tension is consequently associated with violence and terrorism that have been spreading into the entire region. These phenomena will continue with the continuation of the war and the escalation of crises in the Middle East.

[Sharif] What do you see as the starting point for confronting terrorist operations?

[Akopov] The starting point must be in ending the Iraqi-Iranian war. This war has resulted in escalating tension which has begun to spread to the whole world. From this premise, we demand the immediate termination of this war which we regard as futile for the peoples of Iran and Iraq. Those who benefit from the continuation of this war are foreign powers. That is why they try to fan the flames of war. We, in the Soviet Union, support all efforts designed to preserve the security and stability of the Gulf countries. We believe that this is the responsibility of the children of the Gulf region and that there should be no foreign interference. We believe that it is necessary to keep the Gulf — being a strategic region — away from international disputes. We are also against any foreign military presence or the establishment of foreign military bases in this region. This region should be free from all forms of military presence so that it may become a region of peace. This peace will favor the region's peoples. It will, as well, be in our interest because the Gulf region is not far from our strategic and security borders.

[Sharif] Some political analysts say that the Soviet Union benefits from the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war.

[Akopov] In what way do we benefit? We regard Iran as an important neighbor. Moreover, we have friendly relations and agreements with Iraq. Such relations with Iraq started a long time ago. We deal with these two countries out of mutual respect and noninterference in each other's internal affairs and in matters pertaining to national sovereignty. The two countries support the Soviet Union's policy of opposition to imperialism and to Israeli expansion. Therefore, we believe that this war and its continuation are not in favor of our interests and our relations in this region.

[Sharif] Ambassador Akopov, do you anticipate the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations with some Gulf countries such as the UAE? How do you interpret the recent statement by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal?

[Akopov] First I want to point out that we in the Soviet Union are ready to establish relations with any state that desires to do so, but this matter should not be viewed as if it were for our benefit alone. This is incorrect. It should not be imagined that the Soviet Union is grasping to restore relations with any particular country or that we try to pressure anyone in this direction. We want these people to be sure that establishing relations with us is also for their benefit, and we are prepared to wait until they realize this fact. But as for the statements of Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, we consider them to be positive and we are prepared to open a dialogue with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia if they are ready for it.

[Sharif] What is the nature of the contacts rumored to have been taking place between Moscow and some of the Gulf countries?

[Akopov] Indeed there are contacts between Moscow and some Gulf capitals, and there is an exchange of opinions and messages either through ambassadors or through commercial relations, and the exchange of congratulatory cables, and so forth.

[Sharif] Your relations with Iran were subjected to more than a political shakeup. How do you view the nature of relations now and is the dialogue still open between Moscow and Tehran?

[Akopov] The dialogue with Iran is open. We have an ambassador who is still in Tehran who is carrying out normal contacts with Iranian officials. A number of these officials have visited Moscow lately. However, despite this we do not understand Iran's reasons for attacking and criticizing us.

[Sharif] Do you think that Moscow is capable of mediating between Tehran and Baghdad and of searching for a formula to stop the war?

[Akopov] If we try a mediation we will not announce it because this would not serve the dialogue with Baghdad and Tehran. We are always ready to play any role to stop the bloodshed between the two countries if we are asked to do so, especially since we affirmed that we stand against the continuation of the war and support all efforts to stop it.

[Sharif] What about the future of the Soviet role in reducing the disagreement between Damascus and Baghdad?

[Akopov] The Soviet Union does not want to judge such situations, but our position will try to eliminate Syrian-Iraqi disagreements on the basis that such disagreements are not in the interests of the Syrian, Iraqi, and Arab peoples who are struggling against Zionism in the Middle East. We hope that the two countries will reach ways and means to solve these disagreements. I cannot say anything about reconciling viewpoints and the degree of success in this regard, but of course the Soviet Union, as a friend of both countries, finds through the friendship treaties with both countries that it needs to restore relations between them and to work toward eliminating the dispute and conflict between them.

[Sharif] How do you in Moscow view the crisis or chief obstacle facing the PLO?

[Akopov] To start with, we consider the Palestinian question to be the chief issue in the Middle East problem. We recognize all the legitimate Palestinian institutions, foremost of which is the PLO's Executive Committee, and we consider the PLO the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. We do not intervene in the internal affairs of the PLO. It is the Palestinian people who chose their chairman and leadership and it is they who are capable of solving all their problems. At the same time, the Soviet Union supports the Palestinian struggle through all institutions and PLO leaderships on the basis of the political revolution which is aimed at achieving the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people and the right to establish a state on their own soil.

In my opinion, the path toward this goal is Palestinian national unity; there is no other choice before them. Thus, we call for unity within the PLO, and the Executive Committee must find an appropriate formula for achieving this unity among the ranks of the PLO. We in the Soviet Union shall not intervene, and we have no other opinion. My assessment is that the PLO must utilize all resources necessary for achieving this unity and it should not

allow the opportunity for additional fragmentation and dissension in the ranks of the Palestinian resistance. Do not ask me how this national unity can be achieved. It is the responsibility of the Palestinian leadership, and the Palestinian people have elected this leadership to achieve this goal.

Daily Comments on Attempts to Destroy OPEC Prices

GF161202 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 16 Dec (WAKH) — In its editorial today the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-RAY AL-'AMM* linked the international conspiracies to destroy the fixed price levels in OPEC and the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war which has entered its 5th year.

The paper said that it is no secret anymore that Western companies, behind which stand the monopolistic countries, want to steal the oil, particularly Arab oil, with very low prices through their conspiracies. They adopt various means, including the game of prices and the continuation of war zones and tensions in the Arab region. The paper said that they are all benefitting from the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and therefore want the war to continue and for the oil and its revenues to be the victim.

The paper said it seems that the superpowers are determined not to let go of the region so long as there is one barrel of oil in it. Thus we see that the Iraq-Iran war will not stop as long as oil continues to exist.

OMAN

Sultan of Brunei Begins 3-Day Official Visit

GF151756 Salalah Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Excerpt] In response to an invitation from His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, His Majesty Sultan Hassan al-Bolkiah, sultan of Brunei, has begun an official 3-day visit to the Sultanate. His majesty the guest, her highness his wife, and the accompanying delegation were officially received on their arrival at the sultan's private airport.

Leaders Hold Talks

GF161154 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Talks were held at the conference hall of the Al-'Alam Palace in Muscat between His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and his guest, His Majesty Sultan Hassan al-Bolkiah, sultan of the state of Brunei, who is currently visiting the country at the invitation of his majesty the sultan.

On the Omani side, the talks were attended by Thuayni ibn Shahab, the Sultan's private representative; Faysal ibn 'Ali ibn Faysal, minister of national heritage and culture; Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; Major General 'Ali ibn Majid al-Ma'mari, the Sultan's military aide and chief of the Palace Office.

On the side of the Sultanate of Brunei, the session was attended by Bahrin Abbas, minister of communications and law; General al-Haj (Ibno), military aide of his majesty the sultan of Brunei; Haj Isa, general adviser to the sultan of Brunei; and Haji 'Ali ibn Haji (Daoud), acting permanent secretary of the prime minister's office.

Concludes Visit, Departs

*GF170800 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT
17 Dec 84*

[Excerpt] His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, sultan of Brunei Darussalam, left the country today after concluding a 3-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman. During the visit he held talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id on bilateral relations and means of bolstering them in various fields. Talks also focused on current Islamic and international issues.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd Receives Senegalese Foreign Minister

LD151629 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1450 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Riyadh, 15 Dec (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz today received the Senegalese minister of foreign affairs, Ibrahim Fall, who is currently visiting the Kingdom. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs; the Kingdom's ambassador to Senegal, 'Abdallah al-Tubayshi; and the Senegalese ambassador to the Kingdom, Moustapha Cisse.

Bahrain Defense Minister Leaves Dhahran

LD141543 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Dhahran, 14 Dec (SPA) — His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander of the Defense Forces of Bahrain, accompanied by Shaykh Khalid ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, the chief of his highness' office, left Dhahran today after a visit to the Kingdom.

Libyan Delegation Tours TV Facilities

*LD151446 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT
15 Dec 84*

[Excerpt] The Libyan delegation currently on a visit to the Kingdom headed by Mubarak al-Shamika, secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport, today paid a visit to the Ministry of Information. The delegation, which was accompanied by the undersecretary at the Ministry of Information, Dr Fu'ad 'Abd al-Salam al-Farisi, toured the television building where they saw the video section and projection room, the channel one control room section, a recording section, a number of studios, the television stage and the ministry's tower. The visit also included the broadcasting building, where the delegation toured a number of technical departments. It is to be mentioned that the Libyan delegation includes Muhammad al-Manqush, secretary of the People's

Committee for the Agency for Executing and Administering the Industrial River Project; (Salim al-Hudari), secretary of the People's Committee for Fateh University; Muhammad Huwaydah, secretary of the People's Committee for the Utilities for Tripoli Town; and a number of other officials.

UAE

Gabonese Official Concludes, Visit Departs

GF171020 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0815 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Dec (WAKH) — Mohamed Mwaba, political adviser at the Gabonese Presidency for Islamic Affairs, has left the UAE at the conclusion of a visit that lasted several days. During the visit, the Gabonese official held talks with UAE officials pertaining to bilateral relations and issues of Islamic cooperation between the two countries.

PDRY

Interior Minister Departs for Bulgaria

*GF151742 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT
15 Dec 84*

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Batani, candidate member of the YSP Central Committee and interior minister, left Aden for Sophia today, in response to an invitation from his Bulgarian counterpart.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Meeting in Sanaa

*GF161539 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT
16 Dec 84*

[Text] Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau and foreign minister, today left Aden for Sanaa to participate in the 15th session of the conference of the Islamic nations' foreign ministers, to be held in Sanaa from 18 to 22 December. He was seen off at the airport by the deputy foreign minister and a number of other Foreign Ministry officials.

PFLP Assistant Secretary General Arrives in Aden

*GF150540 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT
14 Dec 84*

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ali Mustafa, PFLP assistant secretary general, arrived in Aden today on a visit to the PDRY lasting several days. ANA has learned that the visit aims at holding talks and consultations with the YSP leadership on numerous joint issues, particularly new developments on the Palestinian front. Brother Abu 'Ali Mustafa will participate in the central speech festival to be held in Aden on 15 December on the 17th anniversary of the formation of the PFLP.

USSR Delegation Continues Tour, Visits Quarry
GF161524 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT
 16 Dec 84

[Text] The Soviet parliamentary delegation, headed by Comrade Bayken Ashimov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, chairman of the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and member of the CPSU Central Committee, today made an inspection tour of the automated quarry which manages the general establishment for construction and industrial buildings, Hadramawt branch, in the Al-Mukalla region. The Soviet delegation was accompanied by Staff Colonel 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, member of the YSP Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Brother 'Ali Ahmad al-Sallami, member of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, chairman of the Committee for Foreign Affairs, and chairman of the National Parliamentary Committee.

During its visit, the Soviet parliamentary delegation expressed deep satisfaction for the efforts of Yemeni and Soviet experts in producing this vital project. The delegation stressed that this project will contribute effectively toward a number of other economic projects and appreciated highly the role played by the YSP committee and local people's council in leading economic and social activities in the province in order to develop the lives of citizens and to improve their standard of living. Work on this project began in January 1981. It is currently operating on an experimental basis to produce stones of various sizes.

The Soviet delegation today left for Say'un.

Visits Hadramawt Valley Project
GF161840 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT
 16 Dec 84

[Text] The Soviet parliamentary delegation, led by Comrade Bayken Ashimov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, chairman of the Kazakh SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and member of the CPSU Central Committee, today made an inspection tour of the state farm in 'Aynah, Say'un Governorate, which has been established within the framework of Yemeni-Soviet cooperation in the establishment of farms in the Hadramawt valley. The Soviet delegation was accompanied by Staff Colonel 'Ali Ahmad Nasir 'Antar, member of the YSP Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers.

During the visit, the delegation learned about the progress of work at the farm and the efforts directed toward developing and

improving agricultural products. The Soviet delegation also visited the electric power station in Hadramawt valley, which was established within the framework of the second 5-sided plan for economic and social development. The delegation toured the various departments of the power station and learned of the economic importance of the station in generating electric power for operating industrial plants and supplying power to villages and towns.

The Soviet delegation then visited the historical town of Shibam. Officials there explained its history [words indistinct]. The delegation visited Say'un's museum which displays, among other items, historical pieces recently discovered by the joint Yemeni-Soviet archeological team in Hadramawt valley.

YAR

MENA: Egyptian Delegation Arrives in Sanaa 15 Dec
NC151909 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Sanaa, 15 Dec (MENA) — An Egyptian delegation headed by Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador 'Umran al-Shafi'i arrived in Sanaa today to participate in the preparatory meetings for the Islamic foreign ministers conference, which will begin tomorrow, Sunday.

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives for Visit
GF161010 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0855 GMT 16 Sep 84

[Text] Sanaa, 16 Dec (WAKH) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Sanaa today on a visit to the YAR that is part of his second tour of Arab countries. During his tour 'Arafat will be holding talks on current Arab developments, especially Palestinian developments.

Chief of Staff Attends Military Camp Exercise
GF151934 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT
 15 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The Revolution No 48 Camp this morning carried out a live ammunition tactical exercise. The exercise was attended by 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of staff and member of the Standing Committee; 'Ali Muhammad Salah, deputy chief of staff for military affairs and member of the Standing Committee; and a number of brigade commanders and heads of military colleges.

Israeli Operation Against Lebanon Denounced

NC141322 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT
14 Dec 84

[Text] The Arab Republic of Egypt has declared its denunciation of the Israeli operation against villages in southern Lebanon and of indiscriminate Israeli firing at Lebanese civilians. A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry made this statement to our radio correspondent. He said: Egypt considers the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon a blatant violation of the Geneva agreements, threatening the progress of the current negotiations between Israel and Lebanon.

The source added: Israel must refrain from carrying out such aggressive actions whatever the reasons may be.

Mubarak Dialogue With AL-AHRAM Staff

NC151528 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1245 GMT
15 Dec 84

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met with the board of directors of the *AL-AHRAM* company at the end of his tour of the company this morning. During the meeting, President Mubarak commented on a number of domestic and international issues in response to questions asked by senior journalists and writers of *AL-AHRAM*.

Responding to a question about U.S. Middle East envoy Richard Murphy's mission, President Mubarak said:

[Begin recording] [Mubarak] Actually, I told them that we are contacting our Palestinian brothers and his Majesty King Husayn to draft a compromise formula [sigha tawfiqiyah] to advance the peace process and resolve the problem.

Murphy, I think, will leave here for Lebanon, and from there go to Israel, then to Damascus. His mission is part of the exploratory process that the United States is conducting following the presidential elections. We are trying to hold contacts with them and with all parties concerned, so we can find grounds for dialogue with the United States.

[Unidentified *AL-AHRAM* journalist] Has Murphy's mission any connection with (?your) visit to the [United States] in February?

[Mubarak] It will not necessarily be in February. The visit might take place shortly after February. However, all these contacts before the visit would be advantageous, because we would know what could be done for the sake of the cause. You may recall that Egypt has embraced the Palestinian cause from the beginning. This is not new to us. Egypt has never relinquished the Palestinian cause despite past events. Egypt is the state taking the lead [last word in English] in solving the Palestinian issue despite all that has taken place. We have not suspended our efforts on the Palestinian cause for 1 minute.

Egypt has never given up the Palestinian cause, in spite of the ordeal and the [peace] treaty. Egypt did much and was attacked.

This, however, demonstrates that Egypt is always right. I do not want to talk about this.

[Journalist] [passage indistinct] There was a news report yesterday about a possible mini-summit involving Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq.

[Mubarak] I have read this news report in the press like you. Do you have the *AL-AHRAM* issue?

[Journalist] No. This report could be a rumor. [passage indistinct]

[Mubarak] Egypt will never be based on axes, but if such a meeting would benefit the public interest, Egypt will not hesitate to meet with any Arab state, so long as the objective would be to bring about peace and resolve the cause. But if the objective was axes, we would never go for it.

[Journalist] [question indistinct]

[Mubarak] Any person shouldering a responsibility like mine would do his utmost to elevate the standard of the Egyptian people. He would also exert his utmost efforts to push the economic process. The economic process is not 1 or 2 years old. This process is deeply rooted. No one expects us to solve this economic problem overnight. I will give anyone who can solve this problem overnight 5 million [pounds]. I will give him this much if he solves this problem overnight. We are pursuing the best policies to solve the economic problem. That is why we listen to various views. Apart from the meetings, I have contacted (?experts) to inquire about the most suitable policies. I then refer all these views to the Cabinet. I never make unilateral decisions, but I always submit the decisions to experts for their assessment. I hope to give momentum to the economic process, a momentum to the housing problem. We have a housing committee chaired by Dr Hashim, president of 'Ayn Shams University. I hope that there will soon be a solution to the housing problem, although our plan does not indicate that we are exerting our utmost efforts. Within the 5-year plan, we are building the same number of, or more, houses than that built in the past 20 years.

The problem is still difficult. I agree with you. But we are trying. We are taking the views of all specialists. Anyone who can make an effort in this sphere is welcome, irrespective of his party affiliation. It makes no difference to me, so long as there is something called Egypt. I will ask anyone. I do not look at a person's party affiliation. Dr Milad Hamdi's case is proof of this. I included him on the Housing Committee the first time it met. I really did not know him. Although I did not know him, I found him to be an intelligent man. This [appointment] is irrespective of his party affiliation. This matter is not of concern to me; I am more concerned with the public interest, which is the most important thing. I hope everyone will see things this way. There are national issues which we all must consider and see where the public interest lies. If we do not devote our attention to them, we will sink.

This is with regard to the economy and housing. There are many things on the domestic level, and to talk about them will require a long time. We have many problems, but our strategy is not to solve problems for the sake of today and tomorrow. If I do things

for today, tomorrow, the next year, or the next 2 years, I would be drowning the people. This is wrong. I look at a long-range strategy. Take for example the sewage system. We have begun work on this. We have faced problems in this respect for years. We have started a completely new sewage system. The system in Cairo itself will cost approximately 3 billion pounds and perhaps more. The water supply network in Egypt needs 11 billion pounds. We are proceeding with the plan. We shall implement whatever we can during the 5-year plan. In the next 5-year plan, either myself or someone else will continue. I view the progress of this project differently from other projects. I cannot provide sedatives. We do not want to fool the people, and I am not used to deceiving anyone. We must work. We must look for the roots of the illness. Otherwise, we will be fooling ourselves and our children.

We are trying to prepare studies for the many other problems. These problems have been in existence for 30, 40, and 50 years. Do not expect us to solve them overnight.

[Unidentified journalist] Mr President, you have held a series of intensive meetings to discuss the economic problem. Have these meetings produced any results regarding the problem [words indistinct]?

[Mubarak] Our main problem is economic. There were results. We are correcting our economic course from time to time. All of the states in the world constantly their economic course. They do not draw up a specific economic line, then let it go wherever it does. They correct the economic course in accordance with the circumstances from time to time. Meetings continue to be held. We ask many economists how to improve our economic performance. We hear and see what are the best solutions, and then we follow them.

[Journalist] Regarding [words indistinct] People's Assembly. Can we say that the parties have adopted the democratic line, or not yet?

[Mubarak] Why don't you ask the parties? I don't say anything. Perhaps you have noticed that in the People's Assembly, we do not interfere in anything. When I talk about democracy, I establish foundations for it. Democracy with its problems is still better. What I ask of all the parties is that there are national issues on which we must agree. For example, we talk about subsidies. Regrettably, no one started talking about subsidies until the past 2 days. I do not want anyone to talk about subsidies from a party point of view. We must take a national view of this matter and find the best solutions.

Take for example the Al-Azhar story. A student died. Of course, no one likes to kill someone else. Rumors immediately began spreading that a policeman intentionally killed the Al-Azhar student. What kind of talk is this? Rumors were circulated in several places. I heard them from some people, and I was surprised. Is this sensible? Afterwards, I heard that someone from the Faculty of Commerce caused the death of another. It was not intentional. Did he set out to kill him?

We must not exploit a situation like this when we are passing through a difficult stage of our life. Fanning the flame is easy.

When we fan the flame we mislead the youth. We are pursuing a certain line to correct things. Tell us if you have a different opinion that would solve matters. We will be ready to accept this opinion and to listen to everything, but not a different opinion that would destroy the situation. When you burn 100 buses, or a hospital, or anything else, how can I repair them? Let us be realistic. Who is going to pay the price? The plan has already been drawn up and the budget has already been drafted and the people must know the fate of every piaster. We will then be compelled to cancel something. Therefore, we all must be realistic, especially the youth. We are doing the impossible to elevate the standard. But we must also realize that when we destroy our installations, we ourselves will have to pay the price. No one will pay the price. We alone will be responsible for that. This price will be paid either by increasing the income tax or by cancelling projects being implemented to serve the people. Anyone in my place would do the same thing. What would we do if we sustained losses, God forbid, of 100 million pounds? Take the 1977 events for example. No one gave us anything. Let us be realistic and let us depend on ourselves.

We must be aware of the situation. We must not exploit a simple incident to disrupt the whole situation. This will undoubtedly backfire and harm us, harm you and your son, your brother, and your cousin. Let us live in reality. If we live in dreams our life will be difficult.

Brothers, there are national matters which must be handled carefully by all of us. Certain queries raised during the People's Assembly sessions are meant to incite the people at this time of the year. Why? Incitement usually negatively affects the instigators. Why should we involve the youth and mislead them with wrong information and cause them problems? I do not want to elaborate on such queries, to avoid people from jumping to conclusions, because I am trying to establish a democratic basis on which to rectify the path for the future. The road in front of us is still long. Nevertheless, I am confident that we will attain good results. Today is better than yesterday. I urge our parties to discuss national topics and not exploit these topics for the sake of incitement. This is really regrettable. We are trying to pursue the right path. What they are doing is really disgraceful. This should not happen. Let them ask us about things. We will tell you whether you are right or wrong. Wherever you go, you will find foreigners. Does this mean these foreigners are U.S. commanders? What U.S. commanders! I really laughed when I heard this.

[Journalist] After the recent NDP reorganization [laughter] [words indistinct] and the appointment of the secretaries, how will the party deal with the people and what are the requirements of this stage?

[Mubarak] After the party reorganization, moves will take place to put an end to [words indistinct], because when they hear rumors of upcoming changes they become unproductive and lazy. We must become accustomed to stability. Stability is an important way to stabilize policies and give confidence to production and investment and so forth. I have no plans to introduce changes and I have no reason to make the changes. You have reporters working for Arab newspapers. You find a report and you publish it in your papers. I only read it from your papers. [end recording]

Reportage on Visit of U.S. Envoy Richard Murphy

Murphy Arrives in Cairo

NC141708 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA) — Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state and President Reagan's personal envoy, arrived in Cairo tonight on a 1-day visit to Egypt during which he will be received by President Husni Mubarak. It is worth noting that Richard Murphy is currently on a tour of the Middle Eastern area.

U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Nicholas Veliotes met Murphy at the airport.

Mubarak-Murphy Meeting Reported

NC150830 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0805 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received Richard Murphy, President Reagan's personal envoy to the Middle East, who arrived in Cairo last night.

The meeting was attended by Dr Usamah al-Baz, the Foreign Ministry's first under secretary and director of the Presidential Office for Political Affairs; Nicholas Veliotes, U.S. ambassador to Cairo; and Dr Frank Kimball, new U.S. AID program director in Cairo.

Al-Majid-Murphy Meeting Reported

NC151538 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid met this afternoon with Richard Murphy, President Ronald Reagan's Middle East envoy. The meeting was attended by U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Cairo Henry Precht.

In a statement following the 2-hour meeting, Murphy said that he had useful discussions with Dr 'Abd al-Majid which dealt with the Middle East problem and that of southern Lebanon, adding that the discussions are a followup of those he had with President Mubarak today.

Asked to comment on Israel's practices against civilians in Lebanon, Murphy said that he cannot comment because this would not help in his mission.

Murphy, 'Ali Meet

NC152033 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA) — Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today received Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs. The discussions dealt with Murphy's tour of the area and with developments in the Lebanese problem.

Ghali Returns From Greece, Makes Statement

NC152030 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo from Greece this evening after a 12-day tour that included Geneva, Brussels, Burundi, and Greece.

In an arrival statement, Dr Ghali said that he would present a comprehensive report to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the results of the African-French summit conference, which recently convened in Burundi, as well as on the talks he had in Geneva with the Red Cross president, with whom he discussed Egypt's proposal for convening an international conference to discuss human right violations in the occupied territories. The report will also include the results of Dr Ghali's participation in the UN Diplomatic Club seminar on the Middle East crisis and Egypt's views on solving this crisis.

The minister of state for foreign affairs added that, while in Brussels, he discussed with the EC president the role of the European Community in giving momentum to the Middle East peace efforts. He said that he communicated to the king of Belgium a message from President Husni Mubarak and that he also handed the Presidents of Burundi and Greece written messages from President Husni Mubarak. He added that he also held several meetings with the presidents of France, Chad, Gabon, Senegal, Somalia, and Djibouti during which bilateral relations between Egypt and each of these states and the African issues were discussed.

He said that at the African-French summit conference, attention focused on remedying the economic crisis in Africa and on confronting the drought and other issues, such as the African Continent's debts to foreign states and means to solve these problems.

Greek Coverage of Visit

For Athens radio and MENA reportage on the visit to Greece by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, including his meeting with Greek President Konstandinos Karamanlis, as well as his interview with Athens *TO VIMA TIS KIRIAKIS* on Egyptian relations with Greece and Israel, see the Greece section of the 17 December Western Europe *DAILY REPORT*.

AL-RA'Y Interview on Foreign Policy

JN151102 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Dec 84 p 20

[Mursi Nuwayshi dispatch from Cairo]

[Excerpts] Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali returned to Cairo recently after attending the OAU summit in Addis Ababa. *AL-RA'Y* held the following interview with Ghali]

[Mursi Nuwayshi] How do you view the restoration of relations between the United States and Iraq? To what extent will the Gulf war be affected by this relationship?

[Butrus Ghali] U.S. policy was unbiased regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war. It did not support one side militarily against the other. However, within this framework, especially since the battles are waging inside Iraqi territory, the United States is trying to improve bilateral relations and urge the countries friendly with it not to supply Iran with arms. This is being done to push Iran toward a peaceful settlement and encourage U.S. companies to establish and improve methods of exporting Iraq's oil.

The Egyptian diplomacy believes that the United States, being a superpower and a permanent Security Council member, shoulders an international responsibility and role to end the Iraqi-Iranian war which threatens world peace and creates confusion and instability, which the United States should avoid. Thus, restoration of relations between Washington and Baghdad affects the situation in the region.

[Nuwayshi] To what extent is your country's foreign policy affected by the U.S. elections on the one hand, and by the elections of the Egyptian People's Assembly on the other?

[Ghali] Egypt's foreign policy is defined in Cairo, not in Washington. Consequently, if we are interested in studying the effects of the U.S. elections on U.S. foreign policy, these elections will not affect our foreign policy.

[Nuwayshi] What are the dimensions of the Egyptian move to end the Gulf war?

[Ghali] Egypt is trying to activate the efforts of the nonaligned countries to stop the Iraqi-Iranian war. We began a series of intensive contacts with the capitals of the nonaligned countries. We are also trying to call on the Coordination Bureau to study specific suggestions that will allow a dialogue between the Non-aligned Movement's representatives and those of both Iraq and Iran to bring their viewpoints closer, to narrow the gap between the two parties, and to begin negotiations.

[Nuwayshi] In your view, what is the best way to stop the Judaization of the West Bank and Gaza?

[Ghali] The sole effective method to stop this Israeli scheme is to attract the attention of the Arabs, the European countries, the United States, and others to the situation of the steadfast Palestinians inside the occupied territories. The Palestinian existence and identity is the hurdle to the attempts aimed at Judaizing these territories. Consequently, we must reinforce this existence by all means. Israel is doing its utmost to vacate the occupied Palestinian territory of intellectual, political, and cultural leaderships to achieve its objectives.

[Nuwayshi] Some reports say that contacts are taking place with Egypt to participate in an Arab peacekeeping force in Lebanon. Are these reports correct?

[Ghali] Egyptian diplomacy is realistic, and prefers to keep away from imaginary plans not in harmony with the Arab situation. The state of division, fragmentation, and the sharp differences in the Arab arena obstruct the success of such impractical plans within the framework of the current situation. Instead, Egypt

prefers that the UN peacekeeping force maintain security in Lebanon after the withdrawal of all foreign forces from there. The United Nations embodies international legitimacy and performs its duties in accordance with the UN Charter, whose principles, meant to spread and safeguard security and peace in the world, were agreed upon by the international community. This is in addition to the fact that the UN forces are not suspected of bias toward one party at the expense of the other.

[Nuwayshi] It has been said that rapprochement between Cairo and Damascus through Beirut is imminent. Is this correct?

[Ghali] What is correct is that Egypt extends a hand of friendship and cooperation to every Arab country that puts pan-Arab interests above all considerations, and that is sincere in its cooperation with us for these interests removed from bargains and accusations.

[Nuwayshi] Fatah will soon celebrate the anniversary of its establishment amid difficult circumstances which affect Palestinian action. What is Egypt's current stand toward Fatah?

[Ghali] Egypt participates, emotionally, with the Palestinian brothers in their celebrations at the beginning of every year, on the anniversary of the establishment of the Fatah Movement. Fatah was considered the first foundation and the real beginning of the military and political Palestinian struggle to regain the rights and practice self-determination. Official and popular Egypt will participate with Fatah in its celebrations this year through the PLO office in Cairo. Egypt has always called for the unity of Palestinian factions, the freedom of Palestinian decision-making, the need to keep it away from narrow party interests, the need to entrench all efforts to support the Palestinian struggle, and to place the cause on the right path. The owners of the cause are capable of achieving these objectives if they have a strong will, sound intentions, and unity.

UKTUBAR Article on Peace Prospects

PM141510 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic 9 Dec 84 pp 10-11

[Article by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali: "Is Peace Possible in the Middle East?"]

[Excerpts] I will try to answer that question, but we must first agree on the precise meanings of the words and expressions we use. We should know what peace we mean and what peace we should discuss. Is it peace in Lebanon, peace between Iraq and Iran, peace in the Western Sahara, peace in the Horn of Africa, or peace in Palestine? Should we be talking about peace imposed by the Israeli Armed Forces or a cold peace like that prevailing between Egypt and Israel? Should we be talking about an alliance of objectives, such as one between Syria and the State of Israel, or should we be considering temporary peace, what is known to the Americans as peacekeeping or peacebuilding?

There are numerous and diverse conflicts. The differences which form the basis of the Middle East conflict are even more numerous and diverse. Having explained the complexities of the Middle East crisis, I now want to single out one conflict which is in fact

the central issue in all cases. By that I mean the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Let me state, for a start, that settlement of the Palestinian question is the basis and that there can be no overall settlement without the restoration of the Palestinian people's national rights. Three initial points impose themselves on this discussion. They are:

1. The nature of the Palestinian problem is quite different from the nature of the other problems, because it has to do with the survival or demise of the Palestinian state or the Israeli state, whereas other conflicts do not threaten the existence of the warring parties.

2. By stressing that the Palestinian problem is the core of the Middle East conflict, we do not mean to underestimate the seriousness of the Iraq-Iran war or the Lebanese tragedy and the destruction of a great Arab capital such as Beirut. Nor do we mean to belittle the diplomatic efforts made to settle these conflicts.

3. The Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the regional wars have changed the cards in the game and downgraded the Palestinian question on the list of priorities. That has made it even more difficult to make any effort to promote a peaceful solution to that problem.

Now that we have determined the place of the Palestinian question in the general crisis, the following question arises: What plan of action should we follow, and within what legal and political framework should the future negotiations be held? Should it be the Camp David agreements, the Fes declaration, the Egyptian-French draft resolution, which is still on the UN Security Council agenda, the Reagan plan, the Soviet plan, a new international conference, or a combination of all these initiatives?

I cannot say that I will be able to give a specific answer to all these questions, but I want to stress that unless immediate steps are taken to stop the deteriorating situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, we will find ourselves faced with a territory annexation process that would render any negotiations a futile and wasted effort.

The peace process is based on Resolution 242 and its very simple equation — restoration of the territories occupied since 1967 in return for peace. If there is no territory left to give back, however, then there can be no peace.

These urgent measures we are calling for should not only apply to the land. They should above all apply to the men and women living on that land. These measures should help the Palestinians attain their rights as citizens. For 17 years the Israeli military occupation has denied them these rights. As we raise the question of Palestinian human rights, we appeal without hesitation for public sympathy.

Today, at the end of 1984, the conditions of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza are worse than they were at the time of President al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in November 1977.

Despite U.S. appeals to the new Israeli Government for an improvement in the "quality of Palestinian living conditions," no steps have been taken to make the Palestinian a citizen enjoying all his civil rights instead of a citizen living in isolation at the mercy of Israeli military repression and under the new Zionist terrorism led by Kahane.

Whatever the political and legal framework of the future negotiations — the Fes declaration, the Reagan plan, international conference, and so forth — the Palestinian people should be given, as a minimum degree of political existence, guarantees that give them hope, encourage them, and persuade them to accept dialogue, negotiations, and peace. Negotiations would be futile if accompanied by demolition of Palestinian homes and construction of Israeli settlements. Any new negotiations would be without substance if accompanied by confiscation of land, destruction of institutions, and persecution of the cadres who could form the basis of the new Palestinian administration which, according to the Camp David agreements, should govern the West Bank and Gaza after the withdrawal of the Israeli military authority and civil administration.

Securing Palestinian human rights is the prime objective of the diplomatic moves. The second objective is to urge the international community to participate more effectively in promoting a solution. We believe that the United Nations is the ideal arena for such activity. Egyptian diplomacy attaches special importance to UN presence during negotiations and throughout the implementation of the agreements and treaties resulting from those negotiations.

UN endeavors and participation in promoting a settlement in the Middle East would lead to a new U.S.-Soviet cooperation which would in fact constitute a double guarantee of coordinated progress in the peace process. We must acknowledge that the Middle East crisis is one dimension of the cold war and that no conflict of this kind can be settled without the participation and agreement of the two giants.

International guarantees, demilitarized zones, and supervision, investigation, and reconciliation commissions are only a few of the many things which only the United Nations can provide. That is why we should not think lightly of U.S. hesitation and Israeli intransigence, particularly since the UN attitude has become more positive.

To sum it up, we say: A direct move in the interest of the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza to help them maintain their presence in the occupied territory and preserve their national identity, and continuous diplomatic activity to ensure effective UN participation in the peace process; that is the dual objective which would make a new beginning possible.

The new negotiations will without doubt be slow and difficult, but in the final analysis they are the only possible option. That does not mean that we do not take into consideration the other factors in the Palestinian problem which I very briefly list as follows:

1. Mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel;
2. Details of the interim period in the West Bank and Gaza;
3. A schedule for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories;
4. Mutual security measures during and after the interim period;
5. The problem of the refugees in its three components — the refugees of 1949, the evacuees of 1967, and the issue of family reunification;
6. The problem of Arab Jerusalem, considered an integral part of the West Bank;
7. The question of reparations for the Palestinians.

At the beginning of the article we tried to separate the Arab-Israeli conflict from the other confrontations and contradictions threatening stability in the Middle East. It is now time to return this conflict to the framework of the other confrontations and interactions. The question is, should we wait until the Arab disputes are settled and a united front is created? Should we wait until the Israeli forces withdraw completely from Lebanon and until a cease-fire is achieved between Iraq and Iran? Should we wait until the Syrian Ba'thists and Iraqi Ba'thists achieve a new amity? Should we wait until the Sahara problem is solved before we begin a new peace process with the State of Israel? Or, should we immediately begin new negotiations without taking into consideration the Arab disputes and the bloody conflicts everywhere?

Egypt's diplomatic activity has been based, over the past 7 years, on the principle of not waiting in the search for the essence, which is peace — peace that brings about a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian problem.

Malaysian Prime Minister on Visit, Other Topics

NC141833 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA) — Dr Mohamed Bin Mahathir, Malaysian prime minister, has said that his visit to Egypt was successful and that he had important and fruitful talks with President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, and senior Egyptian officials. Speaking at a news conference tonight, Mahathir added that his talks dealt with enhancing bilateral economic, industrial, and cultural cooperation.

Mahathir pointed out that he had serious discussions with Egyptian businessmen on investment cooperation. Mahathir stressed the need to attain a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian people's cause. He denounced Israeli actions in the occupied territories and Israel's siege of a number of villages in southern Lebanon.

On Arab relations, Mahathir expressed his country's satisfaction with the resumption of Egyptian-Jordanian relations. He said: We call for the unity of Arab action for the sake of the Arab cause.

He emphasized that Egypt has political, human, and cultural weight in the area, which places a special responsibility on it regarding the Middle East situation.

On the Iraq-Iran war, Mahathir said: We denounce this tragic war and call for efforts to end it.

To a question on international terrorism, Mahathir said: We strongly denounce terrorist activities which are spreading throughout the world.

Mahathir on Economic Cooperation

BK150855 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Malaysia and Egypt have agreed to set up a joint committee [to] oversee the progress of economic relations between the two countries. Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed says the joint committee will particularly promote the volume of two-way trade. Its establishment was provided under the 1977 agreement on economic and technical cooperation. The prime minister said this at a news conference in Cairo at the end of his 5-day official visit to Egypt.

During his stay, Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir had useful discussions on a wide range of subjects with President Husni Mubarak. He also held talks the top level Egyptian delegation headed by its prime minister, Mr Kamal Hasan 'Ali. Our correspondent Mokhtar Kadir says Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir was happy with the Egyptian Government's positive response to Malaysia's suggestion for greater cooperation to strengthen bilateral relations. Both countries also identified various areas of cooperation. The prime minister also suggested to Egyptian businessmen to hold the Egyptian week in Malaysia, in efforts to popularize their products in Malaysia.

Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir is confident that the joint venture to set up a palm oil processing plant in the Suez free trade zone will succeed because of the large market for edible oil in Egypt.

Al-Majid Leaves for Sanaa Islamic Conference

NC170635 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Isamat 'Abd al-Majid left Cairo this morning for Sanaa to head the Egyptian delegation at the meetings of the 15th conference of Islamic countries' foreign ministers due to open there on Tuesday.

In a statement prior to his departure, 'Abd al-Majid expressed his happiness to visit the YAR — his first visit to that country. He said that during his visit to Sanaa, he will meet with YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and senior YAR officials. He affirmed that the Egyptian delegation will not spare any efforts for the attainment of the noble goals of the conference. He expressed hope that the conference will be fruitful and achieve the interests of the Arab and Islamic nation. Concluding his statement, he pointed out that the conference agenda includes many topics, primarily, the current situation in the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq war, and the Palestinian issue.

'Plot' Seen at Meeting

*NC162125 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT
16 Dec 84*

[Text] Egypt's diplomacy succeeded today in thwarting a Syrian-Iranian plot against Egypt during the meetings of the Islamic states' experts that began in Sanaa today, in preparation for the meeting of the Islamic States' Ministerial Council.

The plot began at the outset of the meetings today when Syria, as is its custom at such conferences, tried, in alliance with Iran and with the support of Libya, to raise a new storm against Egypt and to define its presence at the meetings as illegitimate. The three states failed to win any support or sympathy from any Islamic state. Thus, their plot turned into an Islamic political demonstration in support of Egypt and its Islamic and historic role in all Islamic issues, foremost of which is the Palestinian cause.

Reportage on Combat Operations, Air Strikes

Artillery Scores 'Effective Hits'

JN141715 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT
14 Dec 84

[Communique No 1,680 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 14 December 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Every day the Iraqi people get stronger in the face of aggression and every day our valiant Armed Forces become more powerful. These Armed Forces have tangibly proven that they have the upper hand on the ground, at sea, and in the air, and that the suspect Khomeyniite regime and its supporters will only reap weakness, chaos, and disappointment. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. The brave artillery men directed their fire at enemy positions, troop concentrations, and vehicles in the central sector of the operational theater, scoring accurate and effective hits. Fire was seen rising from the attacked targets.

2. One of our forward units carried out effective artillery strikes against several enemy targets opposite our positions in the operational sector east of Basra, inflicting large losses in men and equipment, destroying one observation post, and killing one of the enemy personnel.

3. Our forward units pounded enemy positions and troops in the northern sector of the operational theater with artillery, inflicting massive losses in men and equipment and destroying two infantry positions.

4. Today, the vile enemy shelled two civilian areas in the Basra area with heavy artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 December 1984

2 Maritime Targets Attacked

JN151748 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT
15 Dec 84

[Communique No 1,681 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 15 December 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Iraq, which is coveted by the coveters and whose enemies seek to deprive it of its sovereignty and impose hegemony on it, emerges today as almighty God has wished it to be. Thanks to its great leader's efforts, Iraq also emerges stronger, more determined, and more capable, while its enemy's strength and reputation are dwindling and falling into the abyss the enemy deserves. The Iraqi Armed Forces' activities and successive victories reflect sincere faith, skillful performance, and a high degree of preparedness to inflict humiliating defeats on the aggressors. The results of the activities for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. In implementation of Iraq's right and of its ability both to impose a siege on Khark Island and other Iranian ports and to prevent the frustrated Iranian regime from exploiting its oil supplies in order to prolong the war and the aggression against our people, the valiant hawks of the air carried out one of their famous raids against two maritime targets this morning.

One of the targets was large and the other one was very large.

Our hawks scored direct and effective hits, and returned safely and triumphantly with their aircraft.

2. In order to teach the Khomeyniite clique the lesson it deserves and to reply to its prattle and empty claims, the aircraft of our valiant Air Force carried out a series of destructive raids against enemy troop concentrations and positions in the Maysan sector, inflicting heavy losses in life and equipment on the Khomeyniite forces.

All of our aircraft returned safely and triumphantly, praise be to God. Our aircraft carried out 116 combat missions.

3. The heroes of our helicopter gunships carried out a successful raid against a hidden enemy position in the Maysan sector this morning, striking the position and inflicting losses in life and equipment on the enemy.

They also destroyed seven enemy boats and two medium-caliber machine guns before returning safely to base.

4. One of our forward units pounded enemy positions, weapons emplacements, and troop concentrations and equipment in the central sector of the battlefield, killing four, destroying one infantry position and one weapons emplacement, and hitting one vehicle.

5. The criminal enemy shelled several civilian areas in the Basra suburbs today, damaging civilian installations and wounding one woman and two children.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 December 1984

Lloyds Confirms Tanker Attack

JN151828 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT
Dec 15 84

[Text] Lloyd's of London has confirmed that the Greek oil tanker *Ninemia* was still burning today south of Iran's Khark Island a few hours after being hit by an Iraqi missile.

Company sources explained that radio contact with the tanker, which has a 240,000 ton [as heard] freight capacity, was lost after the first SOS messages.

Meanwhile, maritime sources in Manama expressed the belief that the second tanker hit by Iraq may have been Iranian, since Iranian tankers and ships do not normally send SOS messages when hit.

More Maritime Targets Hit

*JN161750 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT
16 Dec 84*

[Communique No 1,682 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 16 December 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. These glorious days, the proud Iraqis record new epics that will remain bright in their honorable history. Our people's Armed Forces continue to deal painful blows to the remnant forces of the collapsing Khomeyniite regime. They are subjecting its hollow vanity to a cascade of shells and missiles from our artillery and Air Force, tearing up the rapacious ones' remnants and dark dreams. And while the spirit of triumph is mounting in the hearts of the Iraqis and their skill in combat is being enhanced, Khomeyni's positions release only moans and cries. This is the punishment of the tyrants and fools. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. In order to fulfill their promise to the people and their leader that they would cut off the vital veins of Iraq's enemies, our Air Force pilots carried out one of their successful strikes on a very large maritime target south of Khark Island at 1230 [0930 GMT] today. They left their quarry burning before beginning their triumphant return, guarded by God. At 1600 [1300 GMT] today, another strike was carried out against a small maritime target, which was hit and destroyed. All of our planes returned safely and triumphantly.

2. In order to further pound the decaying heads of Khomeyni, his henchmen, and his forces, our Air Force planes continued their devastating attacks throughout the day today on the gangs that Khomeyni has prepared to commit aggression against our borders in the Maysan sector. We meted out the punishment they deserve. Our brave pilots carried out 155 combat missions and returned safely and successfully with God's care.

3. In a bold and successful raid, our helicopters carried out an effective strike on an enemy ambush in the Maysan sector, inflicting losses in men and equipment. They destroyed two wooden boats and one machine gun and returned safely to base, praise be to God.

4. One of our combat patrol units attacked a number of enemy positions in the central sector, inflicting losses in men and equipment. All of the patrol members returned safely to base. Elsewhere in the same sector, one of our forward units pounded enemy positions with mortars and other weapons. Two enemy infantry positions were destroyed.

5. Three vehicles and two infantry positions were destroyed east of Basra.

6. One enemy boat was destroyed and two enemy men were killed in the Maysan sector.

7. Escaping the inferno of the Qom and Tehran ruling clique, new groups of Iranian civilians sought refuge with our forces in the northern sector. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

8. The enemy shelled the Basra suburbs with heavy artillery today. Three houses were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 December 1984

Ramadan Reiterates Determination To Fight Iran

JN141450 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1423 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Dec (INA) — Popular Army Commander Taha Yasin Ramadan has said that continuing the war which the Iranian rulers imposed on Iraq will only increase the Iraqi people's determination to continue fighting until final victory.

Ramadan, who was visiting a training camp today, added that Iraq has managed to maintain the independence of its international policy and relations with the world states and has promoted these relations to an advanced level during the 5 years of war. He stressed that the Iraqis have overcome all the difficulties with which the Iranian rulers tried to obstruct the march of revolution and construction in Iraq.

Tariq 'Aziz, Red Cross Official Discuss POW's

*JN161958 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT
16 Dec 84*

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received (Jan Oparker), Middle East representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), who is currently visiting Iraq. During the meeting, they reviewed the question of the Iraqi POW's in Iran and the inhuman treatment to which they are being exposed at the hands of the spiteful Iranian regime, which has violated all international laws and norms, as well as heavenly values, in its treatment of the POW's.

Tariq 'Aziz also stressed the need for the ICRC, for all international organizations, and for world public opinion to assume their responsibility in guaranteeing the safety and good treatment of the Iraqi POW's in Iran on a reciprocal base. The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Taha Yasin 'Ali, the head of the ministry's legal department, and a number of ministry officials.

Commander, Paper Emphasize Defensive Readiness

JN161857 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA) — The commander of the Abu 'Ubaydah forces in the Maysan sector has emphasized that his forces are now highly prepared to repulse any Iranian offensive.

In a press statement published here today, he said that these forces have completed their defensive preparations to destroy any new Iranian aggression. He stressed that the Maysan sector forces have implemented the Iraqi military command's directives on being prepared to confront the Iranians at any time and place.

On another level, the Iraqi Defense Ministry's newspaper, *AL-YARMUK*, says that the Iraqi soldiers are waiting to destroy and

wipe out the aggressors. It adds: We are waiting to burn them at every bend, rampart, hill, and mountain.

It points out that the Khomeyniite cowards have not learned a lesson from the tremendous shocks that have riven Iran, nor have they realized that their indifference to the disasters afflicting them will bring about their downfall. The paper asserts that the Iraqi forces are lying in wait for the aggressors and will show them their end.

Cabinet Meets Under President, Approves Budget

JN161633 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] President Saddam Husayn chaired an expanded Cabinet meeting this morning. After about 7 hours of discussion, the Cabinet approved the state's general budget, the investment plan, and the foreign trade plan for 1985. The state budget and the two plans will be submitted to the RCC and the National Assembly, which will discuss and approve them in their final form.

The meeting was attended by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC member and First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and Vice President Tahay Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, members of the Ba'th Party Regional Command, the chief of the president's office, ministers, and a number of state officials.

President Saddam Husayn Receives U.S. Journalist

JN151203 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Dec (INA) — President Saddam Husayn received U.S. journalist and researcher (Christine Moses Helms) in Baghdad this morning. The journalist held a political and intellectual dialogue with the president on the revolution, the Iraqi-Iranian war, the Arab situation, and Iraq's international relations.

Trade Minister Receives U.S. Delegation

JN152037 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] RCC member and Trade Minister Hasan 'Ali received the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of commerce, James Kelly [name and title as heard], and the delegation accompanying him this morning. The two sides reviewed future economic cooperation between the two countries. The meeting was attended by the director general of the external economic relations department in the Trade Ministry.

U.S. Official Discusses Cooperation

JN161859 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1812 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA) — Faysal Salman Ghali, under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals, met with James Kelly, deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Commerce Department, who is currently visiting Iraq. They discussed

prospects for bilateral cooperation in the industrial field in the service of the two countries.

AL-SIYASAH Interviews Ambassador to U.S.

LD161305 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0849 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Dec (KUNA) — Iraqi Ambassador to Washington Nazir Hamdun, in an interview with the Kuwait daily *AL-SIYASAH* published here today, pointed out that America is a country "which has its policy and interests that could agree or disagree with us" and denied that the United States opposes the resumption of the tanker war in the Arabian Gulf, which, he said, is aimed at "tightening the Iraqi pincers around Iran's economic neck."

Hamdun explained to *AL-SIYASAH* that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz informed Washington that his country hoped and looked for further understanding and dialogue regarding various issues, and that one point of difference between them is the Arab-Israeli conflict. He added that the foreign minister also informed the United States that Iraq does not consider itself directly concerned with the initiatives and concepts submitted regarding a Middle East settlement and that those concerned first and foremost are Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and the PLO, a matter that demands that their views be ascertained. He stressed that Iraq "has remained and will remain an indivisible part of the Arab nation and is physically linked with its problems."

Regarding the United States' lack of objection to the tanker war, the Iraqi ambassador said this is due to the American Administration's understanding of the motives of the Iraqi measure, which was shown 2 months ago when the American President distinguished between hitting ships within and outside the zone of military operations outlined by Iraq.

Iraq declared Khark Island a military operation zone at the beginning of this year and warned all ships from navigating close to that zone, saying it would not be responsible for any damage to ships if they were hit within it.

The Iraqi ambassador praised Iraqi-Soviet relations and said they are "good and will continue to be good."

Replying to a question regarding the possible effect on these relations by the Soviet Union's attraction to Damascus, the Iraqi ambassador said "those who believe the Soviets are in full agreement with Syrian policy to the degree that they could be considered a totally biased ally are mistaken."

He said that the subject of normalizing relations between his country and Syria "is left to Damascus to decide." He went on to say that "Soviet and Syrian concepts differ greatly on many issues, including the PLO issue, Damascus' relations with it, the Syrian posture regarding Jordan's restoration of relations with Egypt, and the question of opening an old pipeline [pipeline not specified]."

AL-SIYASAH asked Hamdun about information that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and the American defense secretary discussed the question of opening a military consulate in the

new embassy. Hamdun said that that "is a possibility." Iraq closed its embassy in Washington in 1967 in the wake of the Arab-Israeli war and reopened it 26 November following a visit by Tariq 'Aziz to the United States at that time.

Regarding the security of the Gulf, he pointed out that the two major powers want stability in the Gulf region and oppose any tampering with the political map of the region.

He said that the question of Iraq joining the Cooperation Council of the Arabian Gulf countries, composed of Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, the Sultanate of Oman, and the United Arab Emirates is left to the future and for the choice of the countries connected with it.

The Iraqi ambassador praised bilateral relations between his country and Kuwait, expressing his admiration for Kuwait's firm posture regarding the Kuwaiti aircraft hijacking and its categorical rejection of political and moral blackmail.

Soviet AAPSO Delegation Statement Issued

JN162007 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] The National Council for Peace and Solidarity and the Soviet AAPSO committee have called on the international community to work for a peaceful solution to the Iraq-Iran war. This came in a press statement following the visit to Iraq by the Soviet AAPSO committee led by its secretary, Samandar Kalandarov.

The two sides warned of the dire consequences that would arise if this war continues, and of its effects on security, peace, and peoples' interests.

The Soviet delegation expressed its understanding of Iraq's stands, and of its acceptance and welcome of peaceful efforts to end the war.

The two sides stressed the importance of meetings with the aim of promoting relations of friendship and cooperation within the AAPSO framework.

They voiced the need to exchange expertise between the Iraqi National Council for Peace and Solidarity and the Soviet AAPSO committee.

Oil Minister Leaves For Vienna OPEC Meeting

JN171012 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA) — Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi left for Vienna this morning to attend the 72d OPEC Ministerial Council to begin meetings there on Wednesday.

In a predeparture statement, Qasim Ahmad Taqi said that the oil market has not stabilized despite the OPEC emergency conference resolutions that sought to restore stability to the market by reducing the oil production ceiling from 17.5 million barrels per day to 16 million. Taqi added that certain member countries are responsible for this instability. They have not abided by their production quotas and are directly or indirectly carrying out price reductions. He said that this is due to the oil policies some industrialized countries are adopting to put pressure on OPEC countries to make them reduce the price of their oil.

Oil Official Cited on Discovery of New Fields

JN151027 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0838 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Basra, southern Iraq, 15 Dec (INA) — An Iraqi oil official has stated that new oil fields have been discovered in Iraq and that the new discoveries will double Iraqi oil reserves. Engineer Mujid 'Abd al-Zahrah, president of the Southern Iraq Oil Corporation, said in a press statement today that his corporation discovered several new oil fields in the governorates of Al-Basrah, Maysan, and Dhi Qar. He added that there is an ambitious 5-year plan to exploit these fields and to develop the existing ones, in addition to establishing new oil-production corporations. He said all these projects will be implemented with competent Iraqi cadres.

On 8 December, the corporation celebrated the anniversary of nationalizing the remaining foreign shares of the Basra Oil Company, which was replaced by the Southern Iraq Oil Corporation. He said national cadres have succeeded in running the establishments and installations left by the monopolist companies, including the Basra Oil Company, and in extracting oil as well. He said that a great number of employees have been hired and the hiring process covered all areas of the southern Iraqi region.

Husayn Visits France, Confers With Mitterrand

For Paris AFP, Radio Monte Carlo and Amman coverage of King Husayn's visit to France and his meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand, see the France section of the 17 December *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Husayn Returns to Amman

JN150712 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0500 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn returned home last night after a visit of several days to the United Kingdom. During the visit, the king held talks with British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher on developments in the Middle East, particularly the developments in the Palestinian cause.

The king delivered two speeches, one at the Royal United Services for Defense Studies and one at the Royal College of Physicians in London. In the two speeches, King Husayn explained Jordan's position on holding an international conference on peace under United Nations supervision — a conference in which all parties, including the PLO, will participate — on the basis of implementing the principle of land-for-peace contained in UN Resolution 242.

His Majesty King Husayn was received upon his arrival by His Highness Prince Muhammad, the king's personal representative; His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn; the prime minister; the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; the chief chamberlain; the chief of staff; and a number of officials. 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, the court minister, and staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, returned with his majesty the king.

King Husayn Calls for Amending Resolution 242

JN161018 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Dec 84 pp 1, 19

[Excerpt] Paris, agencies — It has been learned that during his meeting with British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher last week, and with French President Mitterrand on Friday, His Majesty King Husayn stressed the need to amend Security Council Resolution 242 in a way that affirms the principle of peace in exchange for land in any international move in the region.

His majesty also emphasized that the European initiative should include recognition of the idea of PLO participation in any endeavor toward a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

French diplomatic sources reported that during his meeting with the Italian prime minister last week, Yasir 'Arafat had agreed in principle to King Husayn's proposal.

These sources added that King Husayn had also emphasized that after securing mutual Palestinian-Israeli recognition, Europe should call for an expanded international conference with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO, provided the discussions of the conference are based on a peace

plan that includes the positive elements from the amended Security Council Resolution 242, Reagan's peace plan, the late Soviet leader Brezhnev's plan, and the Fes Arab peace plan.

Richard Murphy Arrives in Amman 16 Dec

JN161012 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy arrived in Amman before noon today on a visit to Jordan, during which he will meet with a number of senior Jordanian officials and discuss with them the latest developments in the Middle East.

He was received at the airport by Tariq Madi, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, the U.S. charge d'affaires in Amman, and U.S. Embassy staff.

Confers With Al-Masri

JN161233 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Amman — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has reiterated Jordan's call for an international Middle East peace conference under UN auspices with the participation of all concerned parties, including the Security Council permanent members and the PLO on equal footing with the other parties. During his meeting today with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, the foreign minister said: The convening of this conference is the only acceptable means of reaching a comprehensive and permanent settlement of the Palestinian cause — a settlement which will satisfy all parties directly involved in the conflict, and which will establish a permanent and just peace in the Middle East.

The foreign minister informed Murphy of Jordan's stand on solving the Palestinian issue which His Majesty King Husayn presented at the opening of the 17th PNC session held in Amman recently. He explained the outlines which Jordan believes constitute the general framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian initiative that will end the Middle East crisis peacefully in accordance with a just and comprehensive solution.

Murphy informed the foreign minister of the latest developments in the Al-Naqurah talks and the extent the talks reached in order to end the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. He also informed the foreign minister of the results of his talks in Cairo, Damascus, and Tel Aviv.

Al-Masri and the U.S. diplomat reviewed the developments in the Middle East.

Discusses Issues With Husayn

JN161616 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn received Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, at Al-Nadwah Palace this afternoon. They reviewed developments of the current situation in the region. Murphy also

presented the results of the U.S. efforts with Syria, Lebanon, and Israel, and the stages that these efforts have covered in order to achieve an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory. The talks also dealt with the aspects of some bilateral relations.

The meeting, which was interrupted by a luncheon banquet, was attended by His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the court minister, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the foreign minister, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Murphy, Peace Talks Viewed

JN160922 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Dec 84 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The Peace Option That the United States Rejects"]

[Text] Although the principal subject of Richard Murphy's current Middle East tour revolves around completing the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Lebanon, the U.S. assistant secretary of state, after holding talks in Cairo yesterday, chose to reaffirm the U.S. stand that rejects the idea of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East. Murphy, who is regarded as one of the most experienced U.S. officials in the region's issues and complexities, reaffirmed that achieving peace in the Middle East continues to be a U.S. objective, but he did not tell us how the United States can achieve this noble aim at a time when it backs Israeli aggression, intensifies the Tel Aviv rulers' extremism, and opposes all peace initiatives whether they are proposed by the Arab, European, or Soviet sides or even by the United Nations, which last week stressed the need for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East.

This stand through which Murphy affirmed the rejection of the international conference is worthy of attention. It was announced in Cairo, which supports the idea of convening this conference, and especially after the Cairo newspapers had received the U.S. official with bitter criticism of his country's policy in the region, particularly with regard to the Palestinian issue.

The U.S. Administration realizes that the Cairo stand, which differs completely from the current U.S. policy on the Palestinian issue, has greatly contributed toward exposing the U.S. stand toward the region, and has stirred many questions on the U.S. role in the Middle East, particularly at a time when Washington is striving hard to maintain the role of sole mediator between the disputing sides despite its excessive bias toward Israel.

Thus, the United States, which stands alone in supporting Israel at the United Nations and extends to the state of aggression and expansion in the region every objective reason to indulge in its arrogance and aggression against the Arab nation, will ultimately bear the responsibility for this short-sighted and unwise stand that rejects the idea of convening an international Middle East peace conference. This stand will consequently retain all the factors of the conflict, thus increasing international polarization, sharply aggravating the situation more than ever before, and thwarting the opportunity of achieving real peace that would draw the support of all the Arab countries and many countries, including Europe and the USSR.

U.S. Mideast Stand, UN Resolution Examined

JN171050 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 17 Dec 84 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "The Desired Peace and the Rejected Peace"]

[Text] The current UN General Assembly session has given the international community another opportunity to know the true U.S. position on the Middle East crisis, and to realize the U.S. insistence on blocking all roads to justice, stability, and peace in this inflamed region of the world.

The call for convening an international peace conference did not stem from a vacuum. It was announced only after experience has proven the failure of the unilateral U.S. approach in search of a balanced and just settlement of the crisis. This failure is not due to lack of ability but rather lack of desire. The United States, which is supposed to be a force for peace and justice, has chosen to abandon its role and to stand in the Zionist trench, throwing overboard all the UN resolutions and all international unanimity. The United States has shown no desire to replace chaos and injustice by stability and justice in the Middle East. Naturally, such a U.S. option has made the Arabs see Washington through its unconcealed positions and intentions which are aimed at imposing capitulation and humiliation on the Arabs as well as giving every opportunity to its Zionist military base to spread its hegemony over the Arab decision, the Arab wealth, and all aspirations that our nation should enjoy as all world nations and peoples. The U.S. arrogance, defiance, and humiliation of the Arabs has made the Arabs see the United States as a party that is biased toward the Zionist entity. Therefore, it is natural and logical for Jordan to return the peace issue specifically to the United Nations, and to say that all the parties concerned should assume their roles in the search for an acceptable formula that will guarantee stability and justice.

The U.S. rejection of the idea of an international conference expresses the joint U.S.-Zionist rejection of any peace whose specifications, bases, and objectives are not consistent with Washington's and Tel Aviv's interests. Their "peace" is one in which Arabs would accept conceding territory, or rather any territory that the United States and the Zionist entity consider necessary to usurp from its owners and to annex it to the zones of influence of the strategic alliance. In other words, the Arabs are required, according to Washington's and Tel Aviv's peace, to accept now, tomorrow, and forever all that the two sides of this alliance find necessary to impose, loot, or establish. What is required is a peace with Zionist ambitions, which have proved to be limitless. Such a peace cannot be achieved and cannot be imposed because it genuinely contradicts the peoples' march and the numerous lessons of history.

Information Minister on Mideast, Jordanian Moves

JN151145 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Dec 84 p 11

[Interview with Information Minister Mrs Layla Sharaf by Shakir al-Jawhari for SAWT AL-SHA'B and the Kuwaiti publication AL-MAJALIS — date and place not given]

[Text][Shakir al-Jawhari]Some time ago, following Jordan's call for holding an international conference on the Middle East and

its insistence on PLO participation in such a conference, some observers voiced the opinion that King Husayn restored the region to the pre-Camp David phase. How do you view the situation?

[Layla Sharaf] In fact, your concept is very near the truth, because Jordan's policy under His Majesty King Husayn has been able to highlight the importance of this conference and the necessary participation of all parties concerned in the peace march. As you know and as is known to everyone, the aim of Camp David was to take the Arab states one by one in order eventually to reach a hollow solution to the Palestinian problem. We have worked to revive the problem in such a way so that everybody will participate in finding a solution. We have made the world participate in such a solution because it was the one that issued the birth certificate for Israel through the 1947 UN partition plan. The world is responsible and should participate in a conference for all the parties concerned, including the PLO on an equal footing, because, as his majesty said in his speech at the PNC meeting, the PLO is the basic element in the Middle East issue.

[Al-Jawhari] From the general outlines, we find perfect similarity between the present situation and that which existed before Al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and the subsequent Camp David agreements. However, regarding the details, how do you view the possibility of coordination between Jordan and the PLO in the future? At Geneva, there was a formula to be discussed, but now the formula is not clear on the international level despite the existence of bilateral [as published] agreement on the possible formula. What formula do you see possible and what are the differences between the present situation and that which existed before Al-Sadat's visit?

[Sharaf] Naturally, the situation on the ground has changed. The world's political situation has changed and facts on the world political scene have changed. The new initiative must coexist with the new situation, with the new gains that have been accomplished, and with the new readiness by states to assume certain roles. Likewise, the PLO role and the way in which it could participate in the international conference have changed. This will be decided in light of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian stand concerning their unified march in the peace process.

When the Geneva conference was proposed, we did not adopt any formula for PLO participation in this conference. Several alternatives were presented: it would either join a unified Arab delegation, a Jordanian delegation, or attend the conference as an independent body. Now his majesty has proposed that the PLO take part through an independent delegation on equal footing with other parties concerned and with delegations of the permanent Security Council member-states, including the superpowers. As for the rest of the details, they will be approved in the talks between us and the Palestinian brothers. Among these details is our approach and understanding of peace and the approach we propose.

[Al-Jawhari] Is there currently an agreement with the PLO on the beginning of an understanding concerning a possible formula for pursuing settlement efforts in the region?

[Sharaf] We and the Palestinians have been coordinating for some time. Yasir 'Arafat visited Jordan several times at the head of PLO delegations and held a series of talks with His Majesty King Husayn and Jordanian officials in order to coordinate on future steps. This coordination will continue and will become stronger. King Husayn's presentation of his plan, of Jordan's concept of the international situation, and of our concept on how to reach a specific peace process contained in his majesty's speech to the PNC session in Amman clarify the broad lines that will be the topics of the talks. However, we cannot anticipate the results before the Palestinian and Jordanian sides hold new talks.

[Al-Jawhari] In his memoirs [former Egyptian Foreign Minister] Mahmud Riyad explicitly states that former Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir asked King Husayn to reach a solution, even a separate one, through the United States in order to regain the occupied West Bank. What has obstructed such a solution to date?

[Sharaf] We know that Israel will never withdraw from any part of the occupied Arab territories unless it is subjected to international pressure, because from an ideological point of view Israel does not want to withdraw from these territories and return them to their rightful owners. Occupying territories is the essence of the Zionist ideology. That's why Jordan's new proposals will mobilize the international arena and create the pressures necessary to have Israel implement the principle of the inadmissibility of forcibly occupying land belonging to others. In the beginning, Israel used to say that its occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan, and Sinai was temporary. However, occupation has lasted for a long time. The formula for an international conference that Jordan is now proposing will guarantee the assistance of those countries which are responsible for the Palestinian tragedy, and will put pressure on Israel to give up the occupied Arab territories.

[Al-Jawhari] When it was adopted, UN Security Council Resolution 242 did not contain a solution to the Palestinian cause. It only sought to remove the results of the Israeli aggression on Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. How can one depend on this resolution to solve the Palestinian cause now, or do you only want to remove the results of the aggression and leave the solution of the Palestinian cause for later? Will the other parties, particularly Israel and the United States, accept this?

[Sharaf] We do not want to leave the solution of the Palestinian cause for the future. This is clearly manifested in our policy toward this cause and our fateful causes. We want to proceed from Resolution 242 because it contains very important principles dealing with international relations, namely the inadmissibility of forcibly seizing land belonging to others. This principle dictates the return of the territories that were occupied. This is the starting point on which any solution of the Palestinian cause can be based.

In our opinion, the most important consideration is the liberation of the land. The Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is based on dialogue and consultation with the brother Palestinians in order to establish a basis for future relations. As for Resolution 242, we say that it is the starting point of a solution, a starting point that will enable us to proceed from a specific basis and to submit

common denominators approved by all the countries in the world. It is not the only thing.

[Al-Jawhari] A few years ago, and before contacts, dialogue, and coordination began between the PLO and Jordan, some Arab states and the PLO proposed that the United Nations amend UN Security Council Resolution 242 to include a solution to the Palestine question. Do you believe that there is now a possibility of developing this resolution through the UN General Assembly or the UN Security Council?

[Sharaf] We do not deal with the issues in such a way, because such a proposal would further complicate matters. As I have told you, we take Resolution 242 as a basis for the peace march, which will, in turn, create a specific dynamism that would influence the resolution's development in harmony with the new facts existing in the international and pan-Arab political arenas.

[Al-Jawhari] While Jordan focuses on UN Security Council Resolution 242 as a basis for a settlement, the PLO concentrates on the Arab peace plan approved by the Fes summit. How do you view the Palestinian stand? Is it in harmony with or does it contradict the Jordanian stand in this regard?

[Sharaf] There is no contradiction in this regard. There might be a kind of integration between the two stands. We have agreed on the Fes summit plan and resolutions, and His Majesty King Husayn headed the seven-member committee that visited several states to explain this plan and these resolutions. We do not believe that this contradicts what we are currently proposing, because the Fes plan implicitly approved UN Security Council Resolution 242. Actually, there is no great difference between this plan and even President Reagan's plan, because it includes the elements of withdrawal and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Moreover, it includes several positive elements that would complete UN Security Council Resolution 242, the Reagan plan, and a number of plans proposed in the past.

[Al-Jawhari] Do you believe that there will be a change in U.S. policy after President Reagan's reelection for a second term?

[Sharaf] We hope that this will take place, especially since President Reagan's reelection for a second term is the first sign in this direction. During his second term, the U.S. President is usually more liberated from the great Zionist pressure. We also hope that President Reagan has studied the Palestine question well during his first term, and has understood its various dimensions. We hope that he will be able to free himself from Zionist pressure in order to force Israel to offer concessions for the sake of a lasting, just, and comprehensive peace.

[Al-Jawhari] The results of the Jewish votes for Reagan, whether during his first or second term, have proved that the majority of Jews did not vote in his favor either time. So, why do we insist on saying that the Jewish votes influence the U.S. President's policy? In fact, President Dwight Eisenhower won an overwhelming majority vote during his second term, only a few days after forcing Israel to withdraw from Sinai in 1956. Moreover, all Jews voted against him. Does this mean that there is a real U.S. submission to Zionist pressure, or does the United States have interests for which it exploits Israel in the region?

[Sharaf] In fact, your concept of the situation needs to be explained. The situation during the Eisenhower and Carter eras was different than it is now. The Zionist pressure at that time played a greater role in Europe than in the United States. He who follows Zionism's international activity will realize that this activity began to move from Europe to the United States after Eisenhower's decision. Moreover, President Eisenhower made his decision only 2 or 3 days before the elections. This is why the Zionist lobby could not destroy his image. President Eisenhower was also the hero of World War II. This gave him great popularity among U.S. voters. The basic point is that the Jews do not influence the U.S. elections solely through their votes — and this is a mistake which we make in the Arab world. As voters, they are a minority. However, they also influence the U.S. elections through the funds they give to institutions and through the press, which they control and through which they can distort the image of the candidate they do not want.

[Al-Jawhari] Your Excellency, are you trying to say that Jewish votes can go in one direction, and Jewish funds in another?

[Sharaf] They sometimes split. They like to have a foothold in every camp so they can influence any elected president.

[Al-Jawhari] Let us now leave the United States and go straight to the border. I do not mean your border with Israel. I mean your border with Syria. What is the situation there like now?

[Sharaf] There is no problem on the border with Syria, except that travelers are sometimes tormented and harassed.

[Al-Jawhari] Convening the PNC in Amman was a qualitative step toward cutting off links with Syria. What do you think are the negative effects of this step?

[Sharaf] I like to balance negative steps with positive steps. I believe that as far as our central issue — the Palestine question — is concerned, this is a big positive step. As for the indignation of our sister states, this is nothing compared to our pan-Arab effort.

Our effort to achieve a just solution to our central issue — restoring the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on their land — is more important than Syria's indignation.

[Al-Jawhari] Jordan and the PLO affirm the need to reach a comprehensive solution. How can you achieve such a solution, which would include the Golan, while you are in a dispute with Syria?

[Sharaf] We should strive for an international umbrella that covers all the parties to the conflict. We cannot force Syria to abandon its efforts for separate solutions unless we succeed in creating an atmosphere that would include it in the solution.

[Al-Jawhari] Could the Syrian stand prompt Jordan and the PLO to seek a separate solution?

[Sharaf] We want a collective, comprehensive, and just solution. We do not want separate solutions or polarization.

[Al-Jawhari] What if the PLO rejects His Majesty King Husayn's proposal?

[Sharaf] I do not like to assume. One must not assume in politics. This is because we cannot assume a certain clear stand. Several factors crop up during talks and consultations. We and the PLO do not consider ourselves as two different camps. We stand in one trench; we work together and consult with one another for the sake of one cause.

[Al-Jawhari] You are calling for an international conference. Egypt, which reached a separate solution several years ago, supports this conference. What would Egypt's role be in such a conference?

[Sharaf] Egypt has a basic role. We are not now talking about roles, whether by Egypt, Syria, or Jordan. We are talking about the Palestine question, which is the central issue. We are not trying to solve our private issues now, we are trying to solve the central issue.

[Al-Jawhari] It was suggested in Arab political circles once that Jordan and Egypt could, from the legal viewpoint, negotiate the return of the West Bank and Gaza. Since the PLO cannot legally negotiate, could Egypt act on its behalf in the future?

[Sharaf] Nobody wants to or can speak on behalf of the Palestinian people.

[Al-Jawhari] Do you in Jordan believe that the Arabs can exert enough pressure to make the United States agree to the idea of an international conference, which it is currently rejecting?

[Sharaf] Actually, it is not just Arab pressure. When his majesty made the proposal, there was opposition even from Egypt. It was only after the king explained the idea through his contacts with all sides that Egypt agreed to the conference. There is an agreement in principle by Britain and France, which once totally rejected the idea. All of this constitutes pressure on the U.S. stand.

There are also signs of rapprochement between the USSR and the United States on this subject. One indication of this rapprochement was President Reagan's UN speech, in which he spoke about USSR participation in solving the Middle East conflict. This is a major step by Reagan in the right direction. If the Soviets are not able to create peace, they are able to obstruct it. Therefore, the Soviets must have a role in creating peace, in view of their strong ties with some of the parties concerned. The Soviets must participate in the international conference we are calling or in any other conference that will tackle this problem. We believe that the international conference should be attended by the permanent member-states of the UN Security Council so they can put pressure on Israel and the United States to acknowledge Arab rights.

[Al-Jawhari] Does Jordan's call for an international conference on Middle East peace constitute a new political line to break the U.S. monopoly of the issue, because of the Jordanian-U.S. dispute that followed His Majesty King Husayn's last visit to Washington?

[Sharaf] The tension between Jordan and the United States was due to some other reasons. We have not changed our strategy toward the United States. We still deal and consult with the United States, and we also try to include it as an effective partner in the peace process. We want the United States to understand all the dimensions of the Palestine question and to contribute positively toward achieving a just solution to this question, which guarantees the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination on their land.

Sulayman 'Arar To Pay Official Visit to Egypt

JN161914 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Amman — The Council of Ministers held a routine session under Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat today. The Council discussed a number of topics on its agenda and adopted the necessary decisions. The Council agreed that Sulayman 'Arar, deputy prime minister and interior minister, should pay an official visit to Egypt.

Trade Union Federation Restores Ties With Egypt

JN161015 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Dec 84 p 24

[Text] Amman — The Central Council of the Jordanian Trade Union Federation held an emergency session yesterday evening under Council Chairman 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam [name as published] in the presence of all members. The Council discussed the subject of relations with some Arab and international federations and decided to restore labor relations with the Egyptian Trade Union Federation following the resumption of political and diplomatic relations between Jordan and Egypt.

The council also emphasized that relations with the American Federation of Labor will remain severed due to this federation's anti-Arab stands, its bias toward Israel, and its support for Israel's colonialist and expansionist plans at the expense of Arab territories.

The Council will hold another meeting on Wednesday to discuss the new draft labor law.

Editorial Rejects Israel's 'Secret Diplomacy'

JN150831 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 15 Dec 84 p 1

[Editorial: "The Secret Diplomacy Is an Israeli Deception"]

[Text] Israel is mistaken if it thinks for one moment that Jordan will agree to replace the Palestinians in any talks on the West Bank and Gaza issues, overtly or covertly. This is a response to Israeli allegations that were intentionally leaked to French circles, which say that Israel will hold secret diplomatic contacts with a number of Arab countries, including Jordan, in order to discuss the Palestinian cause.

These allegations have two objectives. The first objective is to harm the relationship between Jordan and the PLO, to cast doubts on Jordan's credibility, and to increase fragmentation in

the Arab ranks. The second objective is to deceive the international community, particularly the European community, and to show that Israel is moving toward achieving a settlement of the Palestinian cause and that there is no need to call for an international conference to achieve this goal.

King Husayn asserted many times that Jordan will not move unilaterally to achieve a solution to the cause or make a separate deal with Israel. The king presented a formula for Jordanian-Palestinian joint action — a formula currently being discussed by the PLO. Whatever decision the PLO will adopt concerning Jordan's proposal, Jordan will adhere to holding an international conference because it is the true arena where a search for a just and comprehensive solution to the cause should begin. This stand,

frankly and clearly, means that Jordan rejects secret diplomacy as an alternative to the international conference, because Jordan is used to acting openly. Jordan also rejects any secrets regarding the cause as well as any talks kept in the dark.

Thus, the secret diplomacy which Israel promises to practice is an exposed game that does not free Israel from its intransigence or excuse the international community from its responsibility toward the cause. Unless Israel agrees to participate in the international conference and relinquish the hurdles it uses to prevent its convocation, the allegations launched by Peres and his aides continue to be deceptive.

Islamic Jihad Warns Italy To Release Detainees*NC170952 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 15 Dec p 10 84*

[Text] A man calling himself Abu Jihad telephoned *AL-NAHAR* last night, and said: "The Islamic Jihad organization warns Italy for the last time that it must release the eight people it is detaining. If it fails to do so, goodbye to its embassy in Beirut."

Al-Jumayyil, Karami Review Recent Developments*NC151544 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1510 GMT 15 Dec 84*

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Rashid Karami discussed during their weekly meeting today the various local, regional, and the current conditions on the political and security levels. Special attention was focused on the issue of the south, in the light of the Israeli measures and the incidents that took place 2 days ago in seven villages of the Tyre area, besides the Lebanese plan against these arbitrary measures and the presentation of the memorandum to the Security Council.

The discussions also touched on the military negotiations, which will be resumed in Al-Naqurah next Monday, between Lebanon and Israel under the auspices of the United Nations. They also dealt with the contacts being undertaken by the American under secretary, Mr Richard Murphy, during his tour of the region.

Moreover, the president and the premier had discussed the current contacts in an effort to (?overcome) the obstacles facing the implementation of the coastal highway plan, and which had already covered considerable progress.

The meeting between Al-Jumayyil and Karami lasted for 1 hour and 15 minutes. After this Karami met with the director general of public security, Dr Jamil Nu'mah, who in turn had briefed the premier on the outcome of his contacts with the concerned factions to block the obstacles in the face of the coastal plan.

The prime minister left the Presidential Palace at 1:50 pm and declined to give any comment.

Military Talks With Israeli Resume in Al-Naqurah**10th Round of Talks Begin***NC171009 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Dec 84*

[Dispatch by NATIONAL NEW AGENCY correspondent Antoine 'Awn from Al-Naqurah — recorded]

[Text] The first meeting in the 10th round of Lebanese-Israeli military talks began at approximately 1000 today under UN auspices. Staff Brigadier General Muhammad al-Hajj [head of the Lebanese delegation to the talks] disclosed that during today's talks the Lebanese delegation will raise the issue of the wide-scale Israeli operation against seven southern villages and that the delegation will reject all these practices. He said that violence generates hatred and we hope that all such actions will end.

Brig Gen al-Hajj affirmed that Lebanon will reemphasize the Lebanese Army's basic role in the south. He said that he had planned to come to Al-Naqurah last Thursday, but could not because of weather conditions.

Brig Gen al-Hajj declined to answer a question about an expected partial Israel withdrawal from some parts of the south in about a month.

Meanwhile, 'Amos Gilboa, head of the Israeli delegation, declared that he is waiting for a Lebanese reply to Israeli questions. However, he again expressed doubt about the capability of the [Lebanese] Army.

In the meantime, a Lebanese military source disclosed to the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY that today's round of talks might not go beyond the subject of last week's Israeli aggression against seven Lebanese villages. The source said that the Lebanese delegation will raise this subject from the standpoint that, while Israel claims that it intends to withdraw and negotiate, it engages in actions that undermine everything it has declared.

According to the same source, the Lebanese delegation will inform the Israeli side that Lebanon rejects all of Israel's attempts to eradicate the role of the United Nations and its forces in the south. The latest such attempt was the attack on the French force in the village of Yanuh. The source said that a review will be made of the position of the Lebanese residents, the majority of whom reject the Israeli practices in the south. Examples of this rejection are the comprehensive strike that was staged in denunciation of the Israeli operation, and which involved various Lebanese factions, and the holy mass that was held in Jazzin on the day of the strike in the south. Lebanon will also point out that the approval to implement the coastal plan demonstrates the Lebanese people's desire to have the Army go to the south to fill any vacuum.

The source continued by saying that the Lebanese delegation will ask for an explanation of the Israeli statements which insinuate partial withdrawal. Commenting on Yitzhaq Rabin's statement linking progress in the negotiations with Lebanon's approval to expand the emergency forces' role, the source pointed out that the Lebanese response came in its three "no's" which were reaffirmed by Prime Minister Karami yesterday. We will insist on a basic role for the Army in all of the south — north and south of Al-Litani.

The source concluded by emphasizing that he does not expect today's round of talks to go beyond these subjects.

Delegation Briefs Reporters*NC171109 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Dec 84*

[Text] Lebanese-Israeli military talks are continuing in Al-Naqurah. The talks are expected to be adjourned shortly for lunch. The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Al-Naqurah has just given us the following dispatch:

[Begin recording] A short while ago, the Lebanese delegation emphasized to journalists the following basic points:

1. A fact, recognized by laws and charters, is that the role of the Lebanese Army should be indisputably regarded as a basic instrument for the implementation of the security arrangements in the south, starting from the international borders. The Israeli side is trying to avoid discussing this role in a frank and clear manner; this impedes the discussion of other matters and precludes progress in the talks.

2. The next point is, naturally, Israel's recent arbitrary aggressions against the southern villages, its siege of these villages, and its detention of their innocent inhabitants, especially women, old people, and children, as well as its persistence in eradicating the role of the UN emergency forces and its disdain of the emergency troops. At one time, the Israelis tried to expand the emergency forces' role and, at other times, they have tried to eradicate this role by their repeated attacks against the southern villages, and attacks against the French forces.

3. The last point is the difficulty in discussing new roles for the emergency forces before the Israeli side commits itself to respecting these forces' current role as stipulated in Resolution 425, which Israel continues to ignore.

Here ends the information given by the Lebanese delegation.

Meanwhile, the debates inside the hall are continuing. The talks are expected to be adjourned shortly for lunch. [end recording]

Officials React to Israeli Operations in South

UN Delegation To Submit Memo

NC141230 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT
14 Dec 84

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's attention was today focused on Israeli practices in the south and the Israeli forces' siege of several southern villages yesterday. At the instructions of Prime Minister Rashid Karami, the Foreign Ministry today sent a cable to Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, head of the Lebanese permanent delegation to the United Nations, asking him to submit a memorandum to the Security Council on behalf of the government, to be distributed as an official document to the chairman and Security Council members. The memorandum will outline the events, developments, and Israeli forces' practices in southern villages.

The Foreign Ministry asked Ambassador Fakhuri to notify the UN Security Council that Lebanon reserves the right to call a meeting of the Security Council as necessary.

It was also decided that the Foreign Ministry will soon carry out diplomatic moves to include the UNIFIL Command and representatives of the states contributing to the force, drawing the attention of their countries to these practices, particularly as yesterday's Israeli actions included some villages within the UN area of operations.

Karami Addresses Southern Delegation

NC141335 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT
14 Dec 84

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami today affirmed that Lebanon is considering the possibility of submitting a complaint to the UN Security Council, concerning the oppressive and arbitrary practices carried out by the Israeli occupation forces against the southern citizens. He said that attention is focused on the south today, in support of the citizens' struggle and sacrifices. The more the enemy persists in committing crimes, the more the enemy will meet opposition, challenge, and confrontation. Karami was addressing a delegation from the seven southern villages, which the Israeli enemy forces stormed and besieged. Many citizens were arrested and massacred. Prime Minister Karami said:

[Begin recording][Karami] I welcome you as brothers dear to us all. I would like to assure you that all Lebanese are living with you and are supporting your struggle and sacrifices. I assumed my post only to liberate the south, western Al-Biq'a', and Rashayya. Therefore, we are all dutybound to support your rights. You are defending the dignity of all Lebanese and the glory of Arabs. Therefore, all attention is focused on the south in support of the southerners' struggle and sacrifices. These are historic circumstances we are passing through. We are all aware of Israel's enmity toward our nation, people, and tribe. It is our duty to stand fast and resist the inhuman and fascist practices by Israel in the south, western Al-Biq'a', and Rashayya. Therefore, the more they persist in their oppressive actions, the more they will meet our resistance and challenge to their occupation, to their military machinery, and to their pressure and coercion.

Our people were born free and will remain free forever, despite Israel and its arrogance. In any case, as a state and government, we must stand by your side and support you. It is our duty to support you, and it is your right to receive direct support. We are carrying out the necessary contacts at the local, Arab, and international levels to draw the world's attention to the tragedies being inflicted on the citizens in the south, west Al-Biq'a', and Rashayya. It is no longer permissible that the world adopt a spectator's role toward these tragedies, leaving the wolf, Israel, to live corruptly among mankind. Everything has a limit, particularly injustice. Therefore, we are trying together to adopt all the steps that must be taken to relieve the southerners' sufferings in this phase until God will help us to liberate our occupied areas from the enemy.

With regard to the wounded, they will be treated at the state's expense. All of the state's resources will be at the service of the oppressed citizens in the south. We are considering the possibility of submitting a complaint to the UN Security Council. If we can get a result from doing so, it is good. We have resorted to the Security Council before, but were unable to achieve the desired results. It suffices that we will be defaming Israel, giving the real picture of what takes place in the south, including massacres, ugliness, and inhuman practices.

In any case, I would like to assure you that we are optimistic and that the south will inevitably be liberated soon, with the efforts of its sons and with the help of free men in the world. We are not alone. Many Arab and international forces support our struggle.

Therefore, we must be patient during this period, the most difficult period in our history. We have great hopes. We place our trust in our God and our people. Victory will inevitably be achieved. We join hands with you for the liberation of our sacred land.

We reiterate our thanks and support for your stands and heroism, which are not carried out in defense of Lebanon alone, but also in defense of all Arabs, values and principles, and rights of people. We call on the entire world to ascertain the truth about what is happening in Lebanon, so it can assist and take a stand in support of this people sacrificing everything for the sake of their dignity, rights, and sovereignty.

Rest assured that we will do whatever can be done, God willing. May God be with us. We feel with you, and are aware of your ordeals. We must not despair. God will inevitably vindicate us and help us against our enemy. I repeat that I am optimistic, and God willing, reprieve will be imminent. The more difficult the crisis becomes, the more imminent the solution will be.

[Speaker] We derive great strength from His Excellency Prime Minister Karami's position when he stands up in the Cabinet and rejects all [words indistinct] in the south. This is a source of strength and pride.

[Karami] By God, we derive from your faith and willpower additional strength for work toward the liberation of our country. Right will inevitably prevail, God willing.

[Speaker] If his excellency, the prime minister, meets with Brigadier General al-Hajj, the head of the delegation to the [Al-Naqurah] talks, he should ask him to raise the issue of this harassment of southern villages.

[Karami] We must not be surprised by any Israeli action, because Israel has exposed itself by its practices and actions. Therefore, the only solution will be for Israel to leave our country, with no regrets on our part. I hope this will take place in the not so distant future.

[Speaker] Mr Prime Minister, we request that the government's position meet the level of the firm and solid stand which exists in the south. We hope that this will take place. Regarding the United Nations, we ask that [words indistinct] the session and there will be an effective role. It is very important that there will be an effective role [words indistinct]. Thank you.

[Karami] You are welcome. [end recording]

Protest Lodged With UN

*NC150651 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT
15 Dec 84*

[Text] The Lebanese Government has lodged a protest note with the United Nations against the Israeli forces actions in the south. The government reserved the right to call for holding a session of the Security Council.

The note, submitted by Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, says in part: Approximately 4,000 Israeli soldiers participated in an operation which led to the death of no less than four civilians and the wounding of scores of others.

The note adds that the UN forces could not hold out in the face of the Israeli attack, which took place in the UNIFIL deployment area, because of the intensive fire during the operation.

The note accuses the Israeli forces of preventing ambulances from transporting the dead and wounded. They also prevented the UNIFIL forces from assessing the losses caused by the operation.

Amal Statement on Incidents

*NC142019 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT
14 Dec 84*

[Text] At the conclusion of its meeting this evening, the Amal movement's Political Bureau issued a statement which said: At the invitation of Nabih Birri, the Amal movement leader and minister of state for south Lebanon affairs, the Amal movement's Political Bureau held an extraordinary meeting this evening devoted to discussing the critical situation in the south and the unique violence experienced by our kinsmen in their occupied land from the new, systematic, and advanced criminal Israeli technique, which surpasses previous methods in repression and coercion. This criminal Israeli onslaught led to the martyrdom of women and old people, and to the wounding of scores of citizens by phosphorous bombs and prohibited weapons. It also led to the indiscriminate arrest of hundreds of citizens, including children, women, and old people.

The statement added: Zionists occupying UN posts, preventing UN soldiers from reaching and helping the wounded, leaving the wounded to bleed to death, looting money and jewelry from the houses in the villages stormed by the Israeli soldiers, and detaining scores of citizens — all these measures confirm that Nazism no longer occupies the primary and distinguished position in criminal history.

The Amal movement affirmed its admiration for the heroic stands in the south, and paid tribute to yesterday's martyrs. The statement added: The movement sees in the unity of the people of the south, and the stand taken by the Christians in particular, a splendid manifestation that confirms the movement's conviction that liberation and unity will come from the south.

The statement added: The blood donated by the Christians for the people wounded by the Israeli aggression really confirms that this unity of blood is the guarantee for the unity of Lebanon, because Lebanon can only survive through the unity of blood. The brother Christians' response to the call for a sit-in in Sidon and Tyre and their readiness to ensure the success of tomorrow's strike proves that wagering on sectarian conflict before or after the Israeli withdrawal is a losing bet.

The Amal movement's statement pointed out that whereas these crimes were also committed against the UN forces in the south,

and within the sight of the committee investigating enemy crimes, the movement sees no alternative except asking the Lebanese Government to submit a complaint against Israel to the UN Security Council to condemn it, to put an end to its violation of Security Council resolutions and international norms, and to compel it to completely withdraw from Lebanon. The movement stresses the need for the government to give this aspect particular attention so that the complaint will be successful and will reveal what is taking place against our kinsmen and homeland.

RFL on Proposal for UNIFIL Deployment in South
NC150707 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English
 0630 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Diplomatic sources have disclosed that the issue of the UNIFIL deployment north of the Al-Litani was proposed by military officials to the Cabinet on the eve of the eighth round of the Al-Naqurah talks. The sources said that the proposal was drawn up during a meeting at Al-Yarzi attended by the Army commanders, chiefs of staff, the chief of the Lebanese delegation to Al-Naqurah, and was afterwards signed by General Michel 'Awn and put forward to the Cabinet.

These military officials have suggested that Lebanon's approval of such a UNIFIL deployment should be preconditioned in order to embarrass Israel on the one hand, and give Lebanon credibility to repeat its demands calling for boosting the role of UNIFIL and enlarging their deployment on the other hand.

Shi'ite Leader Attacks Western, Warsaw Pact Stands
NC141546 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT
 14 Dec 84

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, the deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, has strongly attacked the positions taken by the United States, Europe, NATO, and the Warsaw Pact on Israel's terrorist practices and criminal actions against the people of south Lebanon. He said that Israel is not interested in peace and security, but wants only to humiliate the people of this area and to sap their will and usurp their dignity.

He declared that the war with Israel has not ended, and that resistance will continue on the basis of Koranic and prophetic principles. His eminence asked: What does the world want of us, and how long does it wish us to remain silent?

He said that the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council has not expressed its opinion on the security plans. He warned against a continuation of the present situation, while appealing to everyone for a minimal degree of unity.

Shaykh Shams al-Din reiterated the firm and decisive Islamic position against any plan to partition Lebanon. He warned against any attempt to frustrate the Syrian initiative in Lebanon, or to wager on changes and alliances. Finally, he expressed greetings of admiration and support to all strugglers in the south, western Al-Biq'a, and Rashayya.

Former Ministers Return After Talks With Khaddam
NC151921 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT
 15 Dec 84

[Text] Former Ministers Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt returned to Beirut this evening following a visit to Damascus, where they met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. They discussed with him the agreement, reached with the government and among all the parties, concerning the security plan for the coastal area from Al-Madfun to Al-Awwali. Hamadah and Junblatt also discussed the situation with Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri, who is in the Syrian capital. They then conveyed to Minister Walid Junblatt the outcome of these meetings.

Upon their return to Beirut, Hamadah and Junblatt called on Salim al-Huss, minister of education and labor, and on Nabih Birri, minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs. They briefed them on the Damascus talks, considered as crowning the agreement reached about the plan for Army deployment and crossing to the south.

Karami Defends Security Plan, Negotiating Stand
NC161423 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT
 16 Dec 84

[Excerpts] As usual every weekend, Prime Minister Rashid Karami today held meetings and contacts with the various leaders and functionaries in the city of Tripoli to discuss the general situation and the Tripoli security plan in particular.

The prime minister then received a dentists union delegation headed by doyen Dr Tabbarah. Citizens rallied around Prime Minister Karami who addressed them saying:

[Begin Karami recording] We are all paying the price of past conflicts. Our duty and responsibility behoove us to stand as one to avert the dangers confronting all of us. I believe that good will prevail and triumph in the end.

We are actually afflicted by the occupation of a treacherous enemy. His [word indistinct] in our country is historical and known. Therefore the liberation of the south, western Al-Biq'a, and Rashayya are the basic duties of our people. If we do not liberate ourselves from Israel, many of our problems will continue to pierce the body of our nation, because this enemy will not let us relax or rest. On the contrary, it is in his interest that we should remain the way we are so that he may realize his ambitions.

Two days ago, I read an article or an analysis on page 2 of *AL-NAHAR*'s Friday edition holding the government responsible for the obstruction of the Al-Naqurah talks. The analysis says the differences among the regime's officials, their retreat on their promise about the UNIFIL deployment, as well as the differences between the government and the Lebanese negotiator on this issue, delay the realization of a success in Al-Naqurah. The analysis portrays us as having become responsible for the continuation of the enemy's occupation of our country. The analysis does not criticize the Israeli stand and the conditions imposed

upon us with regard to the Lahd army, the partition of the south and Al-Biqa' — the area south and north of the Al-Litani — or with regard to one area being subjected to unifil control and the other to Lahd's influence and control.

The least we should have done, when speaking about this subject, was to portray Israel's stances and its illogical demands, which cannot be accepted. [words indistinct] I say that we support the expansion of the UNIFIL deployment with certain conditions which no official can disregard, barring their deployment in areas where we find no justification for such an action.

On the other hand, if Israel wants to use its arrogance and conditions to ensure the safety of its northern part, then it is not right that in return Lebanon's sovereignty should be violated, or that anything should be imposed on it leading to its partition or to handing it over to UNIFIL. We accepted the expansion of the UNIFIL deployment south of the Al-Litani on the basis that it is essential to seek UNIFIL assistance to establish security in this area for the Lebanese citizens, not to serve Israel's security.

The day this analysis was written, Israel was surrounding nine villages in the south which are under UNIFIL control and responsibility. We refused the UNIFIL deployment in Al-Biqa' and Rashayya — in the areas far from the international border. We have been blamed for this and held responsible for the obstruction of the Al-Naqurah talks. It is the view of the analyst that Israel should not be blamed at all for attacking the villages, killing their sons, arresting their youth, and imposing its demands at the Al-Naqurah discussions.

Every time a U.S. envoy comes to us — Mr Murphy is in the area now — we become afraid of Israel's actions and its frequent aggression. It is as if its pressure and blackmail are not confined to Lebanon, but go beyond to include the United States, mainly so that it may be more biased toward Israel. This draws our attention. Every time a U.S. envoy comes to us, we indeed become afraid of Israeli actions against us. Anyhow, our stand is firm and it will not change. Regardless of the attempts by some who speak for some quarters which might not want Lebanon's sovereignty or freedom, or might not want to reach solutions which would maintain the Lebanese people's security and sovereignty, we will not change the principles and facts on which we base our actions. We support the UNIFIL deployment south of the Al-Litani. This deployment will be subject to our will only. We will not accept any participation or opinion by Israel regarding this deployment. We do not accept the UNIFIL deployment north of the Al-Litani. There is no justification for such a deployment.

At a time when we are shouldering a historical responsibility, we hope that everyone will support Lebanon in its actions and struggle for liberating their land and not for reaching agreements restricting Lebanon and its policy for some time. This is something we will never accept. The writers and journalists must understand this because the regime is consistent in its stands and principles, and the government is united around the principles on which it bases its negotiations in Al-Naqurah. The negotiating delegation is shouldering its responsibility with all sincerity and honesty. This is our stand, which we are declaring so that everyone will realize that we will not squander a grain of soil of this dear homeland. We wanted to express our opinion on these

matters so that *AL-NAHAR* may feel assured that our stand is sound, and that the unity of our ranks is what we depend on to liberate the south. [end recording]

Karami: Agreement Reached on Tripoli Security Plan
NC162017 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Tripoli's Quadripartite Security Committee met tonight under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Karami, with all concerned parties in attendance. Following the meeting, Karami said that a final agreement was reached on implementing the security plan for Tripoli.

Military Council To Discuss Security Plan
NC170645 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Excerpts] The Military Council will meet today to discuss a new amended version of the coastal road security plan. The council will try to put the final touches on the plan and submit it to the Cabinet for approval. The plan will then be ready for implementation.

This plan has been surrounded by a positive atmosphere as a result of Lebanese-Syrian efforts made in the past few days on several levels, the latest of which was Syrian President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's meeting with Khalid Junblatt and Marwan Hamadah.

Karamah on Party Policy, Army, Junblatt
NC141952 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Today, the chief of the Kata'ib [Phalange] Party, Dr Elie Karamah, declared that his party stood firmly against Lebanon's partition and that south Lebanon must be liberated, but that liberation must be achieved through the Lebanese legal authority. He also stressed his party's all-out support for the Lebanese legal authority.

This came in an interview in which he also expressed the conviction that all the Christians who fled their homes in the mountain will sooner or later return. Dr Karamah said: As for coexistence, the Kata'ib want it to be based on mutual respect, on the acceptance of [word indistinct] of the personal distinctive characteristics of every community in Lebanon. A response for recognition by all therefore is not likely to solve any problem in Lebanon, that solutions can be only political and based on the acceptance of humanity and democracy. In any case, he said, the party was quite willing to discuss all matters related to the Lebanese (?cause), whether in connection with the kind of regime or else, but it should be done in an atmosphere of security and stability. The party rejects dictatorship by any section of the brothers and it aims to oppose by any means any attempt by any section to impose its domination on Lebanon.

As for the visit of the party delegation to Damascus, it can always be arranged, said Dr Karamah, but what is more important is what is expected from Syria — that is, a more efficient role in controlling security in Lebanon and in helping to implement all security plans and all decisions taken by the government. The party expects Syria to do what should be done with those whom it considers Syria's allies, so that security may be reinforced in Lebanon and the Israeli forces may withdraw. No doubt Syria is quite capable of helping in this respect, affirmed Dr Karamah.

He said: We want the Lebanese Army to be able to play its full role and I am very much surprised that all statements made in this respect because, under the new defense law, the Lebanese Army represents all sides and it is therefore a guarantee for all. Dr Karamah added that little by little the Army will grow and will be able to accost any conflict. As far as we are concerned, our ultimate goal is to accost any conflict. As far as we are concerned, our ultimate goal is to become once again an exclusively political party, and our hope is that the Lebanese state will be able to exercise its prerogatives without any restrictions. [Words indistinct] is now premature.

Answering a question, Dr Karamah said: Whenever Junblatt wants to destroy any given scheme, he starts telling tales involving hegemony, the Vatican, the Army, East, West, Islam, etc. I think all the talk about hegemony should have stopped since the abrogation of the May 17 accord. Speaking about hegemony, maybe there is one. It is exclusively Junblattist and you can find it in the Al-Shuf, in the mountain, and in wide portion of [word indistinct].

Finally, the chief of the Kata'ib indicated that the Lebanese Front is the incarnation of the feelings of the Christians, and it will remain so. It is the supreme political authority of the Christians and the commander of the Lebanese Forces is in fact the military commanding officer of the Christian community and is given his instructions by the Lebanese Front. This, of course, does not prevent a large number of leaders to join the front. The important thing for the Christians is the mutual understanding between [former] President Sham'un and the Kata'ib Party and the commitment of the Lebanese Forces toward all the decisions and instructions issued by the front. What is also important, said Dr Karamah about the front, is its moral power without any prejudice, of course, to the value of any of the Christian leaders who are part of the front.

RFL Reports Iranian Delegation Visit to Tripoli

NC141235 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1145 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Security reports from the north have revealed that an Iranian delegation is currently visiting Tripoli as guests of Hashim Minqarah. It has been learned that the delegation is discussing the possibility of narrowing the gap of differences among the various Islamic movements. Palestinian sources in Tripoli, meanwhile, pointed out that mediation is currently taking place between the Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] group and the Islamic Unification Movement to eliminate some differences caused by the movement's support for the remnants of 'Arafat's group in Tripoli.

RFL on Al-Murabitun, Palestinian, Unification Moves

NC151338 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1145 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Excerpts] A security report reveals that the Al-Murabitun have effectively reorganized themselves after having received financial and military aid, particularly from Libya. The report points out that Al-Murabitun are currently running 28 centers in West Beirut, located in Courniche al-Mazra'ah, Al-Tariq al-Jadidah, Tal'at Abu Shakir, Al-Rawshah, and Ra's al-Nab'. These centers are supplied with advanced radio equipment and various weaponry, including RPG's, heavy-caliber machine guns, and 60mm and 88mm mortars.

It has been learned, through security sources, that the number of kidnapped Christians held by 'Aql Hamiyah, in Hayy al-Sullam in the southern suburb, has reached 90 persons. The sources say that reports about the kidnapped have been sent to Iran so that their sentence could be passed in Tehran, in accordance with Islamic laws. In Al-Biq'a, the groups commanded by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] have been active in the Al-Fa'ur area where they transformed the handicraft center of Yusuf (Nahdan) to a military center. There, they have stationed a company, 10 vehicles carrying antiaircraft guns, and 3 vehicles carrying BM-21 rocket launchers [as heard].

In the north, Islamic Unification sources have disclosed that about 300 Palestinian gunmen have joined the group of Hashim Minqarah. Deployed in Hawsh al-'Abid and Al-Mina, they are now under the command of Abu Jihad and at the disposal of the Islamic Unification Movement. Security reports also indicate that a joint military command was recently established by the Neighborhoods and Mosques Alliance, led by Khalil 'Akkawi; the Islamic committees, led by Abu Mas'ab; and the group of Kan'an (Nafi). These groups, acting under the umbrella of the Tripoli Islamic meeting, command about 800 gunmen who are deployed in Al-Tabbanah, the vegetable market, and Abu Hamra.

MENA Alleges Formation of Anti-Israel Front

NC141924 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Beirut 14 Dec (MENA) — An unidentified person contacted the Lebanese NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY this afternoon and informed it of the birth of a new front in Lebanon named the Christian Front for the Liberation of the Occupied South [Al-Jabhah al-Masihyah Litahrir al-Janub al-Muhtal]. This person said that the front includes about 250 members who will operate together with the national resistance for the liberation of the south, because the south is not Shi'ite, but Christian and Muslim Lebanese. This person, who called himself Abu Tony, said that in the next 48 hours, the front will teach the occupying Israeli enemy a lesson he will not forget, and that the operation will be made public when it is completed.

Damascus Reports on Murphy's Talks in Amman

*JN161847 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT
16 Dec 84*

[Text] Amman — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy began talks with the officials of the Jordanian regime today. A spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Amman has refused to explain the nature of the topics U.S. Envoy Murphy will discuss in the Jordanian capital. Murphy arrived in Amman today from Cairo within the framework of his current tour of the region.

Former Lebanese Ministers in Damascus for Talks**Monte Carlo on Talks**

*JN151230 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT
15 Dec 84*

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Important signs of a solution to the Lebanese problems appeared in Damascus today. Former Lebanese Ministers Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt arrived in Damascus today and immediately met with the Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri. We have learned from Hamadah that he discussed with Al-Hariri the new steps to implement the security plan along the coast and in the mountain. On another level, Syrian Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt, who conveyed to him a letter from Walid Junblatt dealing with the steps that the Lebanese Cabinet approved concerning the security plan and which Minister Junblatt had also approved.

This afternoon, President Hafiz al-Asad received Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri, who delivered to the president a message from Saudi King Fahd dealing with the general situation in the region, particularly in Lebanon.

Khaddam Confers With Envoys

*JN151226 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT
15 Dec 84*

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Khalid Junblatt and Marwan Hamadah before noon today. The talks revolved around the situation in the Lebanese arena. Junblatt and Hamadah acquainted the vice president with the security plan on the coastal road agreed upon by the representatives of the Lebanese Army, the Progressive Socialist Party, and the Amal movement. The plan will be implemented within the next few days as a step within a comprehensive security plan agreed upon in the meeting held in Bikfayya and attended by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

MENA Cites AL-'AMAL on Khaddam-Talas Differences

NC161541 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Beirut, 16 Dec (MENA) — The Lebanese newspaper AL-'AMAL today reports that there are sharp differences

between Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas over the leadership of the Sunnite community in Syria.

The paper says that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who is the arbiter in all differences and conflicts among Syrian officials, is inclined to support Khaddam.

Quoting diplomatic sources, the paper says that in the event he is deprived of a great share of influence, Talas will resort to resigning and to supporting the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria.

These sources said that the Syrian defense minister had recently boycotted the regional conference of the ruling Ba'th Party in Syria, giving rise to many speculations about tension in his relations with other members in the Syrian Government.

These sources noted that Rif'at al-Asad, Syrian vice president and Hafiz al-Asad's brother, has been inactive since his return to Syria from France last month, following a stay of nearly 6 months in Switzerland.

Talas Addresses Military College Graduating Class

*JN152053 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT
15 Dec 84*

[Excerpts] Damascus — The political military college held the graduation of a new class of officers this morning, under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces. The president was represented by General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and minister of defense.

Gen Talas delivered a speech in which he conveyed struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad's greetings to the graduate officers, as well as his best wishes for success in carrying out the noble national and pan-Arab tasks. Gen Talas then reviewed the political events experienced by our Arab nation after 'Arafat convened his divisionist council in Amman, the council which the parties to the new reactionary axis — Mubarak, Husayn, and Iraq's Saddam — wanted to use as a legitimate cover for liquidating the Palestinian people's rights on the basis of Camp David and the liquidatory Reagan plan.

Gen Talas spoke about the situation in Lebanon. He asserted that Israel is the party that benefits from the fragmented Arab situation, and that Israel is trying to use its maneuvers at the Al-Naqurah talks to explode the Lebanese security situation, and to chain Lebanon with conditions that prejudice its sovereignty and independence. Gen Talas asserted that the Syria of Hafiz al-Asad and of pan-Arab principles and decisions, has never known weakness, and that it will continue to deal with the situation as steadfast strugglers do.

At the conclusion of his speech, Gen Talas wished the graduates success and thanked the college's director, officers, and trainers.

Reportage on Al-Naqurah Talks 17 Dec Session**Gilbo'a Awaits Answers**

TA170754 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0742 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] The head of the Israeli delegation to the Al-Naqurah talks, Brigadier General 'Amos Gilbo'a, has said that the Lebanese have been given Israeli proposals, and today we are awaiting the answers. The Voice of Israel's Arabic-language reporter Nayif Khuri asked Brig Gen Gilbo'a if there is any chance of new answers, in light of the fact that Lebanese Prime Minister Karami has publicly rejected Israel's positions. Brig Gen Gilbo'a replied:

[Begin recording] I am waiting to see whether the Lebanese delegation will come armed with answers in the style of Karami's public statements, or will arrive with different answers. Let us wait and see. [end recording]

As reported earlier, the talks in Al-Naqurah will resume shortly.

10th Round of Talks Begins

TA170947 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0932 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] The 10th round of Israeli-Lebanese military talks in Al-Naqurah has begun. The agenda apparently includes the deployment of UNIFIL in the area that will be evacuated by the IDF. Israeli delegation head Brigadier General 'Amos Gilbo'a said that at the eighth round, Israel asked the Lebanese to reconsider matters and bring positive responses.

Lebanese Protest IDF Action

TA170948 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0940 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Here is a report from the officers' talks in Al-Naqurah: The head of the Lebanese delegation to the talks today presented his country's position on the IDF operation in the Shi'ite villages in southern Lebanon. This is reported by the Voice of Israel's Arabic-language reporter, citing a military source in the Lebanese delegation. The source said that Lebanese delegate General Muhammad al-Hajj protested the IDF operation, and said that Israel makes declarations which conflict with its actions in the field.

Accusations Exchanged

TA171217 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] The head of the Israeli delegation at the Al-Naqurah talks expressed his shock over the Lebanese defense minister's declaration that every Lebanese citizen must kill one Zionist in order to get Israel out of southern Lebanon. Our correspondent Nayif Khuri reports that the talks today were characterized by accusations and counter-accusations. The head of the Israeli delegation protested the IDF operation in the Shi'ite villages of southern Lebanon last week, arguing that Israel is harassing innocent

inhabitants and is showing disdain for the UN forces operating in the region.

'No Progress' Reported

TA171346 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1340 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] No progress is reported at the end of the 10th round of talks between Israel and Lebanon. This round ended in Al-Naqurah a short while ago. The Israeli delegation raised a number of proposals today but the main details of these proposals were rejected by the Lebanese delegation. The proposals concerned the deployment of UNIFIL and the Lebanese Army in the area which will be evacuated by the IDF. The two delegations will meet again this Thursday for the last round of talks before the Christmas holiday.

Rabin Says UNIFIL Role 'Make or Break' Issue

TA151824 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says Lebanon's stand on an expended role of UNIFIL forces will make or break the Al-Naqurah talks. Rabin was speaking in Tel Aviv yesterday to the Foreign Press Association:

[Begin Rabin recording] At this stage, the Lebanese have refused so far to expand the role, the area, the force of UNIFIL. We have not yet reached in the talks in Al-Naqurah far beyond this issue. If the present position of Lebanon, or it might be Syria behind them, will continue that UNIFIL has no role beyond its present area of deployment, if the mandate of UNIFIL will not be expanded, if UNIFIL forces will not be reinforced to carry out the role that we see so essential, as part of our security arrangements, and practical to replace the IDF in the areas which are held by us — I doubt if there will be any results in Al-Naqurah. This is the major issue at the present that will make or break the talks in Al-Naqurah.

I hope that through efforts and convincing, the Lebanese Government — to the extent that there is a Lebanese Government — the Syrians, still it will be possible. On Thursday next week there will be the last meeting before the adjourning of the meeting till after Christmas and New Year's Day. I believe that until then we have to know a little bit better what are the real intentions of the Lebanese and the Syrians on the UNIFIL issue. If there will be no political agreement, Israel will have to consider, the Cabinet will have to take a position, what to do. Allow me to say that by a unilateral act it will be very difficult to achieve the two-fold goal of Israel: to be out of Lebanon and at the same time to ensure the security to our northern frontier, to our settlements, and to our settlers. [end recording]

Rabin Tells Murphy No Breakthrough in Al-Naqurah

TA171303 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1248 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today told U.S. envoy Richard Murphy that there has been no breakthrough in the

Al-Naqurah talks to date. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that in today's meeting, Rabin again presented Israel's views regarding future security arrangements in Lebanon. Murphy is about to depart for Beirut and Damascus, where he will hold another round of talks. The last round of talks before the recess in the talks is scheduled for this Thursday. During the recess, Israel will reevaluate and reexamine its stands concerning the continuation of these talks.

Deputy Chief of Staff on IDF Morale, Objectives

TA160820 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
16 Dec 84 p 3

[Report by the defense affairs correspondent]

[Text] Tel Aviv — Deputy Chief of General Staff Aluf (Major-General) David 'Ivri says there has only been a slight reduction in the willingness of citizens to report for reserve duty because of the Lebanon situation.

In an interview published in the English language *IDF JOURNAL*, 'Ivri said: "This is a natural and understandable phenomenon and is not necessarily related to the political/military situation regarding Lebanon per se but rather to work overload, the accumulation of extensive periods of reserve service over a given time. I admit it is difficult for people to carry such a burden for a long period of time," he added.

There has been a "slight increase" in the number of volunteers for elite ground, sea and air combat units, he said.

'Ivri also said Israel has the knowhow to produce "almost all" the combat material it needs, but budgetary constraints and delivery time requirements occasionally oblige it to compromise and buy abroad.

'Ivri believed the Lavi and Phantom, which Israel is upgrading, as well as the F-15, F-16 and another plane — possibly the F-18 — will be the IAF's [Israel Air Force] main jets in the 1990's.

Israel is "devoting much effort" to building up the naval forces, he said.

'Ivri said the cuts in the defence allocation for 1984 "were in the region of 13 per cent." However, some items — such as indemnities to families and wounded veterans — could not be touched, so the outlay on other subjects has to be reduced by as much as 40 per cent, he said.

Shamir Continues Visit to Latin America

For reportage on the visit to Venezuela by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, including his meetings with Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi and Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul, see the Venezuela section of the 14 December Latin America *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

SHAS Leader's Resignation Threatens Coalition

Peres, Shamir Confer

TA141918 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1815 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] In a telephone talk today between Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who is currently in Panama [as heard], the prime minister promised to do all he can to resolve the crisis with SHAS. The talk was initiated by Yitzhaq Shamir.

Tomorrow night, following the end of the Sabbath, Prime Minister Peres will go to the yeshiva where the Council of Torah Scholars, the spiritual leaders of SHAS, convene. Our correspondent Yisra'el Segal notes that as a result of criticism leveled at the prime minister, alleging that he is about to hold a political meeting with a religious court judge, it was decided that the meeting will be general, dealing only with the religious aspects of SHAS' presence in the government.

SHAS Decides To Withdraw

TA160520 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] SHAS' Council of Torah Scholars has rejected Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' appeal and has decided that SHAS will withdraw from the coalition. This is reported by our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz. Our correspondent further reports that Mr Peres' meeting with the Council of Torah Scholars and the SHAS Knesset members lasted for about an hour. Later the SHAS members met with the Council of Torah Scholars and decided to reject Mr Peres' appeal. In their announcement they noted that SHAS had waited 3 months to settle the conflict on the matter of portfolios and cannot wait any longer.

The head of the Liberal Party's Executive, Minister Avraham Sharir, said this morning that SHAS' withdrawal from the coalition is a grave matter which undermines the stability of the entire coalition. The Likud ministers will convene before the Cabinet meeting this morning to discuss their moves in view of this development.

At the same time, our correspondent reports that Jerusalem circles last night considered the possibility that Shim'on Peres should propose assigning the Interior Affairs portfolio to Minister Qatzav and the Labor and Social Affairs portfolio to Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz.

Likud Considers Withdrawing

TA160915 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0900 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Minister Yitzhaq Peretz submitted his letter of resignation at the Cabinet meeting this morning. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that during the Cabinet meeting a number of ministers, including Yitzhaq Navon and David Levi, are trying to dissuade Peretz from resigning.

During the Likud ministers' meeting earlier, the tendency emerging was that if SHAS finally withdraws from the Cabinet, the Likud will follow suit. Even while this report is being given, efforts are continuing to reach a compromise on the distribution of portfolios between the National Religious Party and SHAS. Our correspondent notes that Rabbi Peretz' resignation will only take effect on Tuesday.

Our correspondent has also learned that there were angry verbal exchanges between Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i and Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz at the beginning of the Cabinet meeting about the economic measures.

Shamir Returns Early

*TA161304 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1244 GMT 16 Dec 84*

[Text] Vice Prime Minister And Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has decided to shorten his overseas tour in light of the crisis with SHAS. Consequently, he will arrive back in Israel tomorrow afternoon. This was reported by our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer. At the moment, the Likud ministers under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister David Levi are still in session with Minister Yitzhaq Peretz of SHAS and other SHAS representatives, in a bid to resolve the crisis created following the submission of Minister Peretz' letter of resignation.

Our correspondent emphasizes that in public statements, the Likud ministers have avoided saying whether they would follow SHAS and leave the Cabinet.

Peretz: Likud Will Follow

*TA161357 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1340 GMT 16 Dec 84*

[Text] Following consultations he held with Likud ministers, SHAS leader Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz said that he inferred from their remarks that the Likud will leave the coalition if SHAS leaves the government. Rabbi Peretz spoke with our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer. Rabbi Peretz also said that he is not demanding that the Likud leave. His party is demanding either the Religious Affairs or Interior portfolio, without changes in the ministries' authority.

Levi Outlines Likud Stand

TA161702 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi says if SHAS leaves the coalition, this will affect cooperation between the Likud and the Alignment and will jeopardize the future of the national unity government. Emerging from a meeting with Likud leaders, Rabbi Peretz said that he is ready to return to the Cabinet table if by Tuesday SHAS receives a whole portfolio, one which has not had its authority curtailed.

Meanwhile, the prime minister is promising to make every effort to prevent a coalition crisis. Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq

Shamir's presence is needed, and he will probably return to Israel earlier than planned. He will arrive here tomorrow following his visit to several South American countries. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

When Minister Peretz of SHAS left the Cabinet table this morning, he greeted Prime Minister Shim'on Peres with the words *au revoir*, in a sense saying that his resignation is not final and that the SHAS crisis may be resolved without causing the collapse of the national unity government. The idea still prevailing is that Rabbi Peretz left the government in order to return to it, but meanwhile the political war of nerves continues. While the Alignment is acting as if it is not worried, the Likud is making threats which are gradually becoming more explicit. If matters are not settled by 18 December, when Peretz' resignation takes effect, the Likud will join SHAS and leave the coalition. Here is Deputy Prime Minister David Levi following a meeting of Likud ministers with Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz.

[Begin recording] [Levi] It is no secret that we are loyal to our commitment to SHAS; this is known to everyone. If SHAS leaves the coalition, the partnership between the Likud and the Alignment will not only be harmed, it will be jeopardized. This is a clear issue, not a matter of semantics but a matter of principle; the Likud's credibility is at stake as well as the implementation of the coalition agreement and the principle of loyalty to loyal partners. The maintenance of balance among the political forces of which the two camps are composed is also at stake. This is clear; this is our guideline which is dictating the effort we are all making at this time.

[Frankel] But SHAS is holding the Likud responsible for not resolving the crisis, perhaps even more so than the Alignment.

[Levi] I suggest that you not speak on behalf of SHAS. We are having a dialogue with SHAS; they know our stand and so does the Alignment. Therefore, as I said this morning, all components that want this government to continue should make efforts to this effect, whether this is the Likud, the Alignment, the National Religious Party, or SHAS, all of them. Not one of them can say that he does not have to make an effort. [end recording]

SHAS Urges Likud To Stay

*TA161808 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 16 Dec 84*

[Text] SHAS has called on the Likud not to quit the government even if SHAS does. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the secretary of the SHAS Council of Torah Scholars, Rabbi Arye Der'i, hopes the Alignment does not intend to form a narrow-based government, because SHAS would not lend a hand to such a system.

Sharir: Liberals Might Quit

*TA161925 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 16 Dec 84*

[Excerpt] SHAS leader Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz has formally resigned from the national unity government, sparking a coali-

tion crisis. Likud leaders warn they will keep their pledge to pull out of the government if SHAS does not get a full Cabinet portfolio. David Essing reports:

The 48-hour countdown has begun and intensive efforts continue to keep the four-man SHAS party in the national unity government. Opinion is divided tonight over just how serious the coalition crisis is. Deputy Premier David Levi says Likud will keep its commitment to SHAS. Levi warns that if SHAS pulls out the government would be in danger of falling.

At today's Cabinet meeting, Levi said: Labor, the Likud, the National Religious Party, and SHAS must all show flexibility to ward off a decision on Tuesday that no one wants. Another Likud minister, Avraham Sharir [of the Liberal Party] also warned that his party might be forced to quit the government if SHAS leaves. Does Sharir think the national unity government is in danger of falling?

[Begin Sharir recording] It will be a very tough situation for us, almost an impossible situation. But I would like to reserve my answer for tomorrow. We are making every effort for SHAS to stay in the government. [end recording]

Shamir: Government 'Endangered'

TA171239 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1222 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir returned to Israel from Central America a few minutes ago. He returned earlier than scheduled in order to try to find a solution to the SHAS crisis. Our correspondent Uri Ginosar is at Ben-Gurion Airport, where Shamir called a news conference a short while ago. He filed this report:

The news conference ended a few minutes ago. Vice Prime Minister Shamir returned to Israel in order to resolve or, as he put it, to correct the wrong done to SHAS. SHAS, Shamir says, must receive a portfolio. The headline of Shamir's remarks was his statement that there is a Cabinet crisis, and that the national unity government is facing a danger if the SHAS issue is not resolved. Shamir said: We take a very grim view of this matter.

The vice prime minister intends to take action immediately to resolve this issue, and he will deal with this matter until tomorrow morning. Let us bring a short excerpt of Shamir's remarks a short while ago:

[Begin Shamir recording] During what remains of today, I will try to handle the issue, examine the situation, and see what can be done to rectify what has thus far been distorted, and solve the crisis, so that the unity government can continue to exist — which I believe is essential for Israel's interests. [end recording]

Yitzhaq Shamir said he has a number of ideas, but was not prepared to dwell on that at the moment. However, let us emphasize that Shamir later said in English what he refused to say earlier in Hebrew — and he said this without mincing words: The unity government is endangered. Shamir further announced that if indeed there is no solution to the SHAS problem by tomorrow morning, all the Likud ministers will be summoned,

and together they will discuss the future of the national unity government. That is all from Ben-Gurion Airport.

Further on Shamir Statement

TA171246 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1228 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has confirmed that there is a government crisis as a result of the SHAS-National Religious Party portfolio crisis. Minister Shamir said this at Ben-Gurion Airport upon returning to Israel after a shortened Latin American tour. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav heard some more of Shamir's airport remarks:

Dozens of correspondents who arrived at Ben-Gurion Airport a while ago showed no interest in Shamir's summary of the visit to Venezuela and Panama; rather they were interested in the SHAS crisis. Thus, the first question addressed to him asked for his reaction to the declarations made over the last few days by Minister David Levi about the SHAS crisis. Let us hear what he said:

[Begin Shamir recording] I do not know the precise verbal phrasing of the declarations made by my colleagues during this period, but I identify with all of them. I share the view that a solution must be found to the crisis with SHAS. This involves a clear-cut pledge made by the two major components of the government — the Likud and the Labor Party — while the Cabinet was being formed. Consequently, SHAS must receive one of the two portfolios: either the Religious Affairs portfolio or the Interior portfolio. [end recording]

Peres Denies Meeting, Correspondence With Husayn

TA170734 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
17 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Peres yesterday unequivocally denied reports that he had met recently with Jordan's King Husayn. Peres, at a cabinet meeting, also denied reports that he had corresponded with the monarch. The issues were raised by Welfare Minister Moshe Qatzav (Likud-Herut) who spoke of reports of "contacts" between the premier and the king. Peres replied by referring Qatzav to "the fact that the reports have been denied."

"And I have nothing to add," Peres added. "There is no foundation to (reports about) meetings between me and King Husayn. As you know, I have openly invited the king to enter into negotiations."

King Husayn Said To 'Sympathize' With Peres

TA160617 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Jordan's King Husayn is said to be planning an Arab summit in Baghdad, with the participation of Egyptian President Mubarak, Iraqi President Husayn and himself. This is according to our reporter Michel Zlotowski, quoting informed sources in Paris. King Husayn returned to Amman yesterday, after talks in

Paris on Friday with French President Francois Mitterrand. Following those talks, Husayn told our reporter that he sympathizes with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' position in the government with regard to efforts to advance the peace process.

[Begin Zlotowski recording] Husayn, king of Jordan, was quite talkative after his meeting with Francois Mitterrand. Standing on the stairs in front of the Elysee Palace, King Husayn kindly answered all my questions.

Were you recently in Israel? No, said the king. What is needed now to promote the peace process in the Middle East? The king answered: The realization by all that time has come to put all the very best efforts, taking into consideration the interest of generations to come, to establish a just and durable peace before it is too late.

I asked King Husayn if in his view the fact that Shim'on Peres was now prime minister made a difference for him. His majesty's answer: I really can't tell; I believe that Prime Minister Peres has a Cabinet that is comprised of a number of (?differing) views, very severely so. For example, said King Husayn, you know of ministers in the Israeli Cabinet that say that Jordan is part of Israel. So, I really sympathize with him in terms of the problems he has.

King Husayn also said that France had a role to play in the Middle East. The king did not elaborate on the subjects he discussed with the French president. [end recording]

International Mideast Conference Call 'Nonstarter'

TA161114 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1109 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] And this report just in from the newsroom: Israel's Foreign Ministry this morning again described as a nonstarter the idea of an international conference on the Middle East. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the UN General Assembly, which is about to conclude its session, again dealt with the Arab-Israel conflict in a futile manner. It once again proved that nothing constructive can be expected from the United Nations to help resolve the conflict. The spokesman added that votes and speeches at this assembly, as in the past, were based on power-bloc considerations with no direct reference to the substantive issues. The outcome as far as matters concerning Israel was concerned was, again, predictable.

Preliminary Tabah Talks To Begin in Beersheba

TA152021 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2000 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] The joint Israeli-Egyptian military group will convene in the near future in Beersheba in order to discuss arrangements for Tabah. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports it was suggested that a token MFO unit enter the disputed area and take charge of security. The suggestion was raised recently in talks held by the military group in Rome.

To date the Egyptians have refused to continue the negotiations in Beersheba, as was suggested by Israel, but they agreed following U.S. intervention. Israel and Egypt, however, are still at odds over the role of an MFO force in Tabah. Our correspondent stresses that the negotiations in Beersheba will not deal with a permanent solution to the Tabah problem, but rather only with the entrance of a token MFO unit. At the same time, secret contacts are being held over the method for reaching a permanent solution — via arbitration or through conciliation.

Egypt Wants U.S. To Participate in Tabah Talks

TA171250 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Dec 84 pp 1, 11

[Report by political correspondent Refa'el Mann]

[Text] Egypt is demanding that U.S. representatives participate in the upcoming talks between Israel and Egypt on the possibility of deploying an MFO force in Tabah.

This Egyptian demand has recently been brought to the attention of Israel, together with Egypt's willingness to hold the joint military group talks in Beersheba and Ismailia, and not in the MFO headquarters in Rome, as was previously demanded by the Egyptians. Egypt's demand that the United States be involved in the negotiations is anchored in the agreement signed on 25 April 1982; therefore Israel cannot object to it. In Jerusalem, however, this Egyptian demand is seen as another expression of the fact that Cairo wants to minimize bilateral contacts with Israel. Egypt demands that the MFO force to be deployed in Tabah be responsible not only for security, but also for maintaining law and order. Israel is against this and insists that the force deal only with security, while Israel itself will continue to police the area.

No time has yet been set for the beginning of the negotiations. The talks will deal only with daily life in Tabah and interim arrangements, without touching at all the ongoing debate between the two countries concerning the permanent status of the disputed area.

Weizman, Basyuni Discuss Disputed Issues

TA161508 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Minister 'Ezer Weizman conferred with the Egyptian Charge d'Affaires in Israel Muhammad Basyuni this afternoon. The two men discussed issues in dispute between the two countries and ways to accelerate their solution.

Weizman Urges Foreign Ministry Peace Initiative

TA170732 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
17 Dec 84 p 3

[Text] Tel Aviv (ITIM) — "I find it regrettable that the foreign minister does not initiate more peace moves, since the state of our relations with Egypt is undoubtedly more important than our relations with nations like Panama and Venezuela," Minister Without Portfolio 'Ezer Weizman said yesterday.

Weizman, who said he himself does take some initiatives, but does nothing without the approval of Prime Minister Peres, yesterday met with the charge d'affaires at the Egyptian Embassy, Muhammad Basyuni.

Weizman, who was speaking in an interview, with Qol Yisra'el [Voice of Israel] radio, said he sees Egypt as the central influence in the Middle East and that he does not believe any dialogue between Jordan and Israel is possible before there is a thaw in Israel's relations with Egypt. He added that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak sees the PLO as an important side in the conflict.

"Why shouldn't we initiate some steps, and then go full force for a breakthrough, rather than sit in place proving nothing can be done?" Weizman asked. He said the question of peace moves would test the unity government, and that "if they manage to bridge their differences, that's fine, and if not, their ways would probably part."

On Lebanon Weizman said that if an agreement is not reached soon he would support a unilateral withdrawal to the Al-Zahrani, the Al-Litani, or perhaps as far back as the international border.

Egyptian Consul in Elat Delays Return From Cairo

TA170905 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Dec 84 p 3

[Eytan Rabin report]

[Text] Egyptian Consul in Elat Hasan 'Isa is postponing his return to the city. For the last 2 weeks the consul has been in Cairo. The HA'ARETZ correspondent has learned that the Egyptian consul went to Cairo on vacation and also to give a detailed report on the recent developments in Tabah, including an incident in which — according to the Egyptians — an Israeli guide tried to run over Egyptian policemen in Tabah.

The HA'ARETZ correspondent notes that there has recently been an improvement in relations between the police in Elat and the Egyptian police force in Tabah. The two police commanders recently held a meeting to get acquainted.

The Egyptian Consulate has reported that the consul may return to Elat on Wednesday.

Eban Calls for Renewed U.S. Peace Initiative

TA161425 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] The chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Knesset Member [MK] Abba Eban, is calling on the United States to renew its peace initiatives in the Middle East. According to Eban, new conditions have been created in the region, including the establishment of a more moderate Israeli Government, some of whose leaders are free of the Lebanese illusions and do not totally reject the Reagan plan. This is included in an article published in the United States which caused quite a bit of commotion when it became known that it to be published. We invited MK Eban to the studio to discuss this

issue. Good day to you, Sir. When you speak of a U.S. peace initiative, are you referring to the Reagan plan or something else?

[Eban] I do not use the words U.S. initiative in the article which you quoted. I am saying three things: A. The assumption that we are facing a long period of political hibernation, that we are faced only with the economic challenge, is taking root here and there. Well, I take exception to this assumption. It is neither necessary nor positive to have a prolonged period of political hibernation, because experience has taught us that a political deadlock usually ends with war and not peace. B. I also believe that the United States is the only reasonable party that can promote peace settlements. This has been proven in the past — in the Yom Kippur war era. Neither the Soviet Union nor the United Nations nor Europe, and surely not the unbalanced, broad conference which is being suggested now, can replace the United States. C. Activity regarding a clear order of priorities should be encouraged: We should first end the Lebanese crisis in a manner which will enable us to return our forces home; we should give Israeli-Egyptian relations some meaning; finally, we should follow Jordanian moves, which have not yet ripened to the point of making negotiations possible, but which may reach this point in due course. This is the recipe I am offering.

[Avner Tavori] One of the points you mentioned is based on the assumption that the new government is offering more optimal conditions, while we know that voices in the current coalition are frequently heard to the effect that this government has no consensus for a political move.

[Eban] This is exactly it: This fatalism is exaggerated, in my opinion. The present Israeli Government is not one of continuation; this is a new government...

[Tavori, interrupting] Despite the presence of the Likud in it?

[Eban] No, this government's basic guidelines are not identical with the Likud's. This government has its own basic guidelines which leave the door more open than the basic guidelines of the previous government; they may not leave the door as open as some of us would have liked, but the government is definitely authorized to check matters, feel the pulse, and follow developments. I would like to express satisfaction with the prime minister's actions in this direction. I have no complaints about the prime minister's performing his duty — this should be any prime minister's duty — in following developments in the region and being awake to a possible ripening of the situation to the point of making negotiations possible. However, since I do not believe we can achieve arrangements without the help of a third party, I find it necessary to express reservations about all substitutes — the Soviet Union, the United Nations, a conference, and Europe — and mention that it is the United States which brought about a number of achievements for the region and Israel. In my opinion, it is the United States which is the most authorized [musmekhet] and capable party to offer its good offices.

[Tavori] It was difficult to see anything optimistic in the declarations made here in Jerusalem, in the wake of the recent moves in our region, in the wake of certain statements made in Amman and in the wake of Husayn's visit to Egypt.

[Eban] I believe it would be incorrect to disregard the order of priorities I have noted, first and foremost Lebanon. I do not believe we will reach a settlement on the Jordanian-Palestinian issue while the situation in Lebanon remains unchanged. Therefore, Lebanon is the first priority. A second priority is to return Egypt to a more balanced point in its relations with Israel, as compared to the relations it is again developing with the Arab world, so that Egypt can play an active role [in the region]. Only after an effort is made in these two directions will there perhaps be a chance to progress in the Jordanian-Palestinian sphere; this is provided the soul-searching we have witnessed in Amman goes beyond the present point. In any event, we should not blindly accept the idea that a period of political hibernation is inevitable and that this government will be unable or will not be called upon to check possibilities for progress in the three directions I have outlined: Lebanon, Egypt, and the Jordanian-Palestinian issue.

Delegation Departs for U.S. Aid Talks

TA170652 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0635 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 17 Dec (ITIM) — The Israeli delegation which left this morning for talks on U.S. aid for this year is expected to encounter some difficulties. "The United States has its own deficit problems, which will not make things any easier for us," Treasury Director General 'Imanu'el Sharon told an ITIM reporter at the airport.

The official delegation also includes Mr Efrayim Dovrat, the assistant director general for international connections, and the director of the Bank of Israel's research department, Mr Mordekhay Fraenkel.

Mr Sharon explained that three experts have been added to the delegation: Professors Eytan Berglass, Mikha'el Bruno, and Nisim Liviyatan. Defense Ministry Director General Menahem Meron will depart tomorrow, but will not be counted among the official Treasury delegation's members, although he, too, will conduct talks on security aid for Israel.

Mr Sharon said that the decision to add the experts to the team was made because the U.S. side to the talks, headed by Prof Allen Wallis, under secretary of state for economic affairs, also includes a group of American professors.

The talks will begin tomorrow morning and will continue for 2 days. However, in reply to a question by the ITIM correspondent on "whether Israel was expecting a Hanuka miracle," the Finance Ministry director general replied laconically: "we are expecting talks, not miracles." He was not prepared to address press reports that Israel will request grants and aid to the tune of \$4.9 billion. "Let us first submit the request to the Americans," Mr Sharon said.

Cuban Youth Delegation May Include Castro's Son

TA170528 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] A delegation on behalf of Cuban Communist youth is due to arrive in Israel shortly. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav

reports that it is believed that one of its members is the son of Cuban leader Fidel Castro. The delegation will be the guest of the Israeli Communist Youth Alliance during celebrations marking its 60th anniversary.

Foreign Ministry Ready To Meet FRG Greens

TA161116 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem this morning expressed readiness to receive the members of the FRG Greens Party for talks on the level of officials. At the same time, our correspondent Gid'on Remez was told that no official request has to date come from the delegation to schedule any meetings for it.

PLO Supporter Barred

TA171228 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Israel will not permit Brigitte Heinrich, a member of the Greens who is with the party's delegation on a tour of the Middle East this week, to enter the country. Brigitte Heinrich was convicted in her country of cooperating with the PLO, and our correspondent Gid'on Remez has been told that Israel's position on collaborators with international terrorism is well known. The Greens delegation is currently touring the Arab countries, and will arrive in Israel early next week. It looks as though at the request of the delegates, a meeting will be arranged for them with the head of the Foreign Ministry department dealing with FRG affairs.

Kimche, Aide in Rome To Reschedule Peres Visit

TA171222 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's director general and his deputy are in Rome for talks with Italian Foreign Ministry personnel. Director General Kimche will confer with Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Giulio Andreotti tomorrow evening. They will discuss the postponement of Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' visit to Italy, which apparently was meant to express Israel's dismay over Italian Prime Minister Craxi's meeting with Yasir 'Arafat. Evidently, the new date for Peres' visit to Rome will be February.

Cabinet Reaches No Decision on Defense Cut

TA161334 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1318 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] The Cabinet session ended a few minutes ago. The main part of the session was dedicated to discussions on the defense budget, and the Cabinet was briefed by the chief of staff and senior IDF officials. During the discussions, the prime minister said that this is a discussion of principles only, and that the differences between the Finance and Defense Ministries over the extent of the budget cut will be decided by other government bodies. Therefore, no decision was made on the budget cut at this Cabinet session.

Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that as of 1300, the Likud ministers were still not participating in the Cabinet session but were talking with Minister Peretz of SHAS, in a bid to persuade him not to leave the coalition. This conversation is still continuing in the prime minister's office. Minister Gur said at the end of the Cabinet session that it was a scandal that the Likud ministers did not participate in the discussion on the defense budget, which is so important.

Further Reportage on Franco-African Summit Conference

Habre Holds Press Conference

*AB141315 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 13 Dec 84*

[Chadian President Hissein Habre press conference in Bujumbura, Burundi, on 12 December following the Franco-African summit — recorded]

[Text][Question] Mr President, the Chadian issue was discussed at length during this summit. Do you think the issue was discussed the way you wanted it discussed? And will the discussions lead to a breakthrough in solving the problem?

[Habre] The Chadian issue was naturally discussed during this summit, as it has been at all the Franco-African summits of the last few years. I took this opportunity to draw the attention of the heads of state of France and Africa to the recent developments in our country to enable them to understand the exact situation prevailing there, especially after the signing of the Franco-Libyan disengagement agreement — that is, the withdrawal of French troops, thus the total respect of the commitment by France, on the other hand, and the nonrespect of the agreement by Libya, since the Libyan troops have not moved an inch.

We therefore asked the French and African heads of state to register their solidarity and to increase their contribution and, finally, to convince the forces of aggression to leave Chad so that Chad can achieve reconciliation with itself, restore peace, safeguard its territorial integrity, consolidate its independence, restore stability, and devote itself to something other than war. One cannot say that concrete solutions were found at this conference, but I am convinced that the Chadian cause was better understood.

[Question] Mr President, about the French Army [words indistinct] at the conquest of the north, is your Army going to reconquer the north all by itself?

[Habre] Yes, we should be grateful to France and the French Army. They did a lot for Chad. France made enormous efforts to organize the Manta operation, which, along with the Chadian forces and Zairian contingents, stopped the Libyan invasion. Yes, it is true that following Libya's lack of respect for the French-Libyan withdrawal, we asked France to send its troops to Chad. Appropriate conclusions can be drawn from Libya's not respecting the agreement. We are in constant contact with President Mitterrand, and this morning we once again discussed this problem. We are convinced that during our negotiations things will move forward.

[Question] What did President Mitterrand say in this respect?

[Habre] Do not expect me to tell you what President Mitterrand told me or what I told him [words indistinct]

[Question] Do you agree with France's view that [words indistinct], Chad's security is assured?

[Habre] On this issue, we have our own views and France has its views, and I can say that our views are getting closer. In other words, our views are not completely divergent.

[Question] Precisely, Mr President [words indistinct]

[Habre] First of all, actually contrary to what has been said, there has never been a real misunderstanding between France and us. I tell you once more that it is quite normal that France sees the Chad-Libya problem in its own way and it is also quite legitimate that we Chadians, who are enduring this aggression and experiencing the problem more directly than France, have our own way of seeing the situation.

[Question indistinct]

[Habre] I think so, considering the tradition of the Franco-African summit, which is a meeting of heads of state who, because of historical, cultural, and linguistic affinities, meet from time to time to discuss problems concerning one another and within one large family. And this is what happened this year. And I must say that this summit was very positive because real problems were discussed, economic and developmental problems, as well as foreign debts, the serious problems of the drought and hunger, and the aggression against Chad. Therefore, it was very positive and I think the whole summit was a success.

[Question] What do you have to say on reconciliation in Chad?

[Habre] In point of fact, the Chadian problem is such that there is the military aspect and the political aspect. We have always handled the two aspects together. After the publication of the Franco-Libyan agreement concerning the withdrawal of their respective forces, there was the Brazzaville meeting, which brought together the representatives of the Chadian Government and the various opposition parties, and we were able to talk among Chadians. There were several discussions, special contacts between persons who know each other.

Therefore, the process has been launched. Of course the military aspect of the issue is weighing heavily. I will tell you a small anecdote: At the Brazzaville meeting, a large Libyan delegation came and spread a rumor that by December the Libyan forces would be in Ndjamena and, therefore, the opposition parties need not rush into reaching a compromise with the government. As far as we are concerned, efforts will continue to be made so that Chadians in opposition will accept the friendly hand extended to them by the Chadian Government.

I would like to tell you one thing, and this should be clear to you, generally, people tend to turn the issue at stake upside down. They say it is Chadians who do not agree among themselves; they do not seek reconciliation; they do not want the unity of their country and of their energies, and, in principle, Libyans can continue to occupy their country; and so on. I would like to ask this question: How many Chadians are today opposed to our regime? Counting all the Chadians who are in the northern part of the country, those in the Islamic Legion and all those you know and meet in Paris, London, and elsewhere, all these Chadians amount to fewer than 5,000. Who in Africa today does not have

such opposition? I know of some states who have millions of people in the opposition.

[Question indistinct]

[Habre] I said earlier that, concerning our attitude toward Libya, and the solutions to the Chadian problem — military or diplomatic — Chad has its own views and our French friends have their own. The same goes for France's discussions with Libya and the assistance that Chad wants from France. As a matter of fact, we have been examining a certain number of (?options) with President Mitterrand and we are trying to bring our views as close as possible in order to agree on a concerted and effective effort toward the goal that France also endorses, namely that Chad should see its territorial integrity and its independence restored, and live secure, free of all foreign intervention.

Franco-African Summit Speeches

PM170926 Paris LE MONDE in French 13 Dec 84 p 3

[Pierre Devoluy dispatch: "Mitterrand Says Africa's Further Decline Into Poverty Unacceptable"]

[Text] Bujumbura — There were neither the strained faces nor the great jollity of the traditional family photograph. It was simply noted that, in President Houphouet-Boigny's absence, Marshal Mobutu is the senior figure at the summit and that Burkina is not represented.

Answering the opening speech from Burundi's President Bagaza, [French President] Mitterrand spoke for 35 minutes, 30 of them devoted to economic issues and only 2 minutes to security matters and the Chad conflict. The resolute nature of his remarks did not make up for their brevity. In his "conclusion, touching briefly on matters of policy and security, peace and war," the French president was eager to provide reassurance, once and for all, to African allies worried about their vulnerability by letting them know that "no aggression will be tolerated." Nevertheless, Mr Mitterrand set the Chad problem within the context of Africa's problems as a whole, thus restoring its regional dimension.

The hint about aggressions is giving rise to various interpretations here. Some of the delegates — the minority — see in it an "assurance against all risks." There will be no lack of assistance to states in danger if the country under attack has not signed defense agreements with Paris.

Others see in it a clear explanation intended for President Hissain Habre: We were under no obligation to respond to your appeal for help, but we did so nevertheless. So stop claiming that our help is neither appropriate nor adequate. When the French president said, "We will stand by those wanting to remain free, but only as long as they try to achieve their own unity," the same delegates perceived a final warning to Ndjamen: Either you do your utmost to achieve a reconciliation in Chad, or we will stop supporting you.

Within the diplomatic corps, one observer was particularly interested: Mansur (Qadushi), secretary (ambassador) of the Libyan People's Bureau (embassy) in Burundi, who was invited to the

opening session of the summit. "We are reasonably satisfied with President Mitterrand's remarks," he said, all smiles.

It was late Tuesday afternoon that President Hissain Habre spoke, saying, among other things: "The Libyans are settling in. Chad is cut in two. We are reproached with failing to reach an agreement. But how can we do so when the Libyans are constantly interfering in Chad's internal affairs. The real danger is of partitioning."

Gabon's President Bongo spoke next. He said he was willing to take concrete initiatives, for instance, to meet with Colonel al-Qadhafi. In his reply, Mr Mitterrand stressed that he had twice secured the Libyan's Army's withdrawal. "We intervened at the Chadian Government's request within the space of a few days. Before the Libyans could overthrow the existing government in Ndjamen. Black Africa was, and will continue to be, protected. France will not allow just anything to be done in Africa." As for the partitioning of Chad, we could not accept it.

In fact, everybody here stresses the need for a reconciliation among Chadians. Realist that he is, President Mobutu asked the conference to work harder "to achieve something concrete with respect to Chad's problems." But the summit has so many other problems to consider, and so little time in which to do it.

Considerably more dangerous than a localized crisis (however interminable) is "the accumulation of threats" throughout Africa, Mr Mitterrand went on. These threats — poverty, famine, the vise of indeptedness, crumbling markets, and dwindling resources are driving the "continent with the largest number of economically backward countries further into poverty" — which "of course, is something nobody here can accept," the French president said.

The record is a tragic one: the average income per African in 1984 will be 4 percent less than in 1970. What is to be done? First, step up cooperation, the French say, and "just as France refuses to issue instructions to others, so it refuses to receive them. It has honored all its commitments and will allocate 0.15 percent of its GNP to the underdeveloped countries." So progress is being made toward the 0.7 percent desired by the United Nations for Third World aid.

Although there is a reduction of credits, it is as small as possible, since this objective is all the more difficult to meet, inasmuch as France is having to strive for stringency itself, Mr Mitterrand retorted to those who pointed to a reduction of the French cooperation budget. In passing (was this a reference to Marshal Mobutu's remarks last Sunday in Kinshasa, when he stressed France's enduring generosity more than its president's efforts?), the speaker specified the following points: "Africa receives over two-thirds of all France's state aid for development."

He went on, hammering out his words: "It is our duty, but it is also our choice." And the leading servants of the state, the authors of cooperation, must not be forgotten: Tribute was paid to Mr Pisani, architect of the latest Lome Accords, and to Claude Cheysson, whose name was applauded by the delegates.

The whole assembly wants the setting up of the special fund for Africa. France has set aside an initial financing of Fr500 million, which are already included in its budget. But the Franco-African summit can do no more about the matter than to express urgent wishes. The Africans sometimes accuse the Elysee Palace of taking too much care of its Arab friendships and of forgetting its "family" somewhat. Mr Mitterrand's suggestion of setting up an African Center in Paris can therefore be viewed as a way of counterbalancing the impending opening of an Islamic studies center.

Last, "from this important platform of Bujumbura," Francois Mitterrand issued an impassioned appeal to the industrialized nations "to play their part more in the struggle for development, and therefore for peace."

The president of the republic pointed out that he is the "tireless champion of the developing world in all international forums, as he has been at a score of international meetings and foreign capitals."

In his opening speech, President Bagaza stressed that, except for a gleam of hope as regards the Chad issue, "most unfortunately, the difficulties and ills besetting Africa have undergone virtually no improvement since the last meeting in Vittel."

In short, Mr Mitterrand has attempted to demonstrate the exemplariness of Franco-African cooperation and reiterated his call in favor of new North-South relations. But, more prosaically, between Chad's piercing lament and the idealistic call of the French for development, the participants have above all sought to ensure that this Bujumbura summit would not be futile. A reasonable ambition which was summed up in this way by the conference chairman, Mr Bagaza: "If we do not succeed in finding solutions to everything that is worrying us, we will at least have attempted to achieve mutual understanding."

Chadian Officials Respond to Libyan Proposal

Envoy in Paris Comments

AB151147 Paris AFP in French 0824 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Paris, 15 Dec (AFP) — Colonel al-Qadhdhafi cannot impose on the Chadian Government one of his initiatives or observers, Chadian ambassador to Paris Ahmad Allam-Mi stated on Friday night. The ambassador was commenting on the proposal by the leader of the Libyan revolution on the possible setting-up of an international commission to verify the presence or the absence of the Libyan Army in Chad.

"His statement means that there are French troops south of the 16th parallel, while everyone knows that the French troops have totally evacuated Chad and that his troops are actually occupying the north, that is, over half of the country," the ambassador stated. In addition to the acceptance of the proposal by the authorities of Ndjamena and the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT], Col al-Qadhdhafi also posed the condition that the observers should not only inspect the north but also the south of Chad.

African Leaders Comment on Chad

LD151438 Paris International Service in French
1245 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Ndjamena's response to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's proposal for an international inspection commission for Chad, expressed through the Chadian ambassador to Paris, was not long in coming: It is not for Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to impose one of his initiatives upon the Chadian Government, Ahmad Allam-Mi said before clearly stating that Tripoli's proposal implied there were French troops south of the 16th parallel, when everyone knows the French Army has left Chad in its entirety, while, on the contrary, the Libyan Army is occupying the north.

Goukouni Oueddei's GUNT has thus far not reacted and the French authorities have remained silent.

Before Col al-Qadhdhafi's new proposal became known, two African leaders, who were guests of President Francois Mitterrand, gave their approval of France's policy regarding Chad. Senegalese head of state, Abdou Diouf, who was the guest at a dinner given by Francois Mitterrand yesterday, said that he fully supports French policy:

[Begin Diouf recording] We believe President Francois Mitterrand kept his pledges, vis-a-vis Chad, and that he deserves special tribute for the loyal, vigorous, and upright manner in which he has put his policy towards Chad into practice. This is a policy to which we adhere and in which we believe (?totally). [end recording]

The same day, the French head of state received Niger President Seyni Kountche, who was returning from an official visit to the United States. In his view, while refuting the accusation that he had stood aloof of the Bujumbura Franco-African summit, France has historic responsibilities towards the French-speaking countries and particularly towards Chad. However, he added, France is a sovereign state as regards its actions and decisions.

Chad 'Agrees in Principle'

AB151426 Paris AFP in French 1330 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 15 Dec (AFP) — The Chadian Government "agrees on the principle of setting up a commission to verify the withdrawal of the Libyan troops from Chad as proposed by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi on Friday," Gouara Lassou, Chadian minister of foreign affairs, stated in Ndjamena today. The head of the Chadian diplomacy, however, specified at a press conference that the composition of such a commission should be approved by all the parties concerned, "that is Chad, France, and Libya."

Gouara Lassou pointed out right away that this working group should also include representatives of the Ndjamena government, adding: This commission must effect "a serious control" of the current situation in Chad. For his part, Mahamat Soumaila, minister of information, has indicated that the commission will actually be set up and will be allowed to visit all the regions of the country and work there as long as it wishes. Questioned by AFP, the minister, however, believed that Col al-Qadhdhafi's

proposal could only be a "diversionary maneuver," aimed at deceiving the international community once again.

Chadian Embassy Issues Statement

*LD161429 Paris Domestic Service in French
1400 GMT 16 Dec 84*

[Text] The Chadian embassy in Paris issued a statement this morning, just a few hours before Francois Mitterrand's television

speech. Ndjamena is keen to recall the policy of President Hissein Habre, in particular, and I quote, his efforts to achieve national unity by undertaking dialogue with his opposition. The communique adds that insinuations and injunctions of all kinds should be directed against the Libyan aggressor that he will respect his commitment and his signature by evacuating Chad.

In conclusion, the embassy states that the Chadian Government and the people cherish the legitimate hope of relying once again on the support of France and on the action of President Mitterrand, end of quote.

ALGERIA

Soviet Admiral Ends Visit, Departs

LD141950 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT
14 Dec 84

[Text] In the field of cooperation, the Soviet delegation led by Admiral Gorshkov, commander in chief of the naval forces and Soviet deputy minister of defense, left Algiers today at the end of an official visit to our country. The delegation, which was received by Major General Mustafa Beloucif, chief of staff of the People's National Army, visited many Algerian military installations during its stay.

LIBYA

JANA Reports U.S. Call for Americans To Leave Libya

LD150957 Tripoli JANA in English 0840 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Tripoli 15 December, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY — The spokesman for the U.S. State Secretary claimed that the Americans working in the Jamahiriyah are faced by threats. He repeated a call to them to leave Libya under this alleged threat. He went on to say the American Government is concerned about the increasing number of American businessmen in the Jamahiriyah, which is taking place despite President Reagan's announcement of 1981 on restricting Americans travel to Libya. Such announcements show that the use of allegations to poison relations between Libyan Arab people and the American people has completely failed.

At the same time, they do not hide the hostile nature of the Reagan administration towards Libya. This is clearly shown by the contradictions in these announcements. While talking about the increasing number of Americans working in Libya, the spokesman for the U.S. state secretary has not refrained from repeating allegations that there is a threat to Americans in the Jamahiriyah.

What has been said by the U.S. spokesman does reveal the monotonous insistence of the U.S. Government to repeat allegations that have not been accepted by the American people, allegations that have been met with strong disdain particularly among Americans working in the Jamahiriyah, who know well that these are baseless claims and that they receive respect, appreciation and good treatment, something they can hardly find even in America.

Thus, it is clear that the motivation behind such allegations are hostile motivations based on an official policy approved by the Reagan administration against Libya whose independent approach is not liked by certain policy makers in Washington at the head of whom is Reagan.

Al-Qadhdhafi Urges Mitterrand To Avoid U.S. 'Trap'

NC141912 Paris AFP in English 1902 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Tripoli, Dec 14 (AFP) — Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi advised French President Francois Mitterrand today to avoid a "trap set by the Americans", who by insisting Libyan troops had not left Chad were trying to spoil a reconciliation between Tripoli and Paris.

In an interview here with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said, "all the noise about the presence of Libyan troops in Chad is in fact an American plot aimed at spoiling the rapprochement of the Arab and French people."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi suggested the creation of a joint French-Libyan-Greek observer mission which could also include Syrians (Mr Mitterrand visited Damascus last month) to inspect northern Chad "inch by inch" to see whether Libyan soldiers were still there. However, the Libyan leader said that the mission must also inspect southern Chad, and that President Hisein Habre of Chad would have to agree to this.

Such a condition was extremely improbable of fulfillment, as Mr Habre is both sensitive to reports of brutality by his army against civilians there, and highly unlikely to permit Libyans of any kind into the south.

Today, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said he was proposing the observer mission "to our friend President Mitterrand to give him the opportunity to avoid falling into the trap set by the Americans." The Libyan leader said the French leader had already fallen into one American trap by sending French troops into Chad in 1983, when the United States was widely reported to have urged Paris to take action to block the rebel advance.

Washington "had made (Mr Mitterrand) believe that Libyan troops were advancing to seize Ndjamen and importuned him to sent troops to Chad." These allegations had been proven false, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said.

Bulgarian Trade Minister Hails Bilateral Relations

LD170948 Tripoli JANA in English 0848 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Al-Bayan al-Awal (Banghazi), 25 Rabi Awal, 17 Dec, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Bulgarian minister for foreign trade hailed the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between Jamahiriyah and Bulgaria. He said in a press conference held this morning in Al-Bayan al-Awal (Banghazi) on the occasion of the opening of the Bulgarian industrial fair which started last Tuesday that Bulgaria is importing several industrial products considered as basics for certain industries in Bulgaria including petrochemicals and salt.

The Bulgarian minister stressed that the constant cooperation between Jamahiriyah and Bulgaria in several industrial and technical fields was a proof of the depth of relations of friendship and cooperation between the 2 friendly peoples.

MAURITANIA

New Leader Briefs Cabinet on Reasons for Change

AB160814 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French
0700 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] The Cabinet met on 15 December under the chairmanship of Colonel Maayouia Sidi 'Ahmed Ould Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state. After informing the Cabinet about the reasons that led the CMSN to carry out the new restructuring, the head of state asked the government to redouble its efforts for a greater success in the achievement of the objectives of the 10 July Movement, in accordance with the CMSN communique dated 13 December 1984.

The minister of foreign affairs and cooperation reported on the Arab, African and international situations. The minister of interior reported on the internal situation.

Demonstration of Support for New Regime

AB141950 Paris AFP in French 1859 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Nouakchott, 14 Dec (AFP) — A large demonstration supporting the new ruling team in Mauritania took place today in Nouakchott, where the people marked for the first time their satisfaction after Colonel Maaouy Sidi 'Ahmed Ould Taya took over power on Wednesday.

The people of the Mauritanian capital answered the call made by the mass education establishments, and from all the areas of Nouakchott they gathered in front of the Palace of the Republic and acclaimed the new head of state and all the members of the CMSN, the ruling organ of Mauritania.

Colonel Taya reaffirmed that the reconstitution of the CMSN and the eviction of Lieutenant Colonel Haydala was decided upon in order to moralize the political life in the country.

"Down with corruption! Down with embezzlement of public property! Down with nepotism and tribalism! Long live a sovereign and prosperous Islamic Mauritania," he concluded and asked Mauritaniens to support the CMSN in its task.

New Head of State Addresses Demonstration

LD142244 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic
2030 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Excerpts] The inhabitants of Nouakchott, mobilized by the educators of the masses, staged a big procession in Nouakchott this evening in support of the reorganization recently carried out by the CMSN. It was a procession which witnessed a mass presence unknown in the history of our contemporary times. The masses supporting this historic decision gathered earlier at 1500 today at the capital's stadium for a spontaneous show of support for the important decision which involved the reorganization of the national leadership. Scores of thousands of youths, men and women, cadres and ordinary citizens took part, gathering en masse to express their total support for the reorganization carried

out by the CMSN, and to confirm their support for the reasons leading to it and the aims which it served.

It was a procession of support to endorse the decisions of the military committee, to approve them and to resolve to adopt a firm stand with heads held high. The human waves were orderly from the capital's stadium to the presidential palace via the main street. All were enthusiastically shouting: Long live the CMSN! Long live the President Col Maaouyia Ould Sidi 'Ahmed Ould Taya! Long live Mauritania free under the enlightened leadership of Col Maaouyia Sidi 'Ahmed Ould Taya! This was also reflected by the various placards which were carried by the quarters and areas of the Nouakchott region.

The procession was received at the gate of the presidential palace by Col Maaouyia Sidi 'Ahmed Ould Taya, chairman of the CMSN, who was surrounded by CMSN members. In an atmosphere of unparalleled enthusiasm Col Maaouyia Sidi 'Ahmed Ould Taya, chairman of the CMSN and head of state, greeted the participants in the procession and said that the CMSN thanked them for staging this great procession of support. He said: I would inform you that the members of the CMSN pledged yesterday to restore ethics in the operation of public affairs. I call on you men and women to help them and assist them in doing this noble work. Col Maaouyia Sidi 'Ahmed Ould Taya, chairman of the CMSN added: Down with graft! Down with the theft of public money! Down with favoritism! Down with tribalism! Long live Islamic Mauritania, honorable and prosperous! Long live the education of the masses!

Afterward the masses returned to the youth house via Independence Street. We stress that this procession, unprecedented in our recent history, took place under the supervision of the capital's regional Committee for Cadres.

New Military Leaders Appointed 15 Dec

LD152246 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic
2030 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] The office of the chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation announces in a decree published today that as of today Colonel Ahmed Ould 'Abdallah is appointed chief of staff of the National Armed Forces, and Col Yall 'Abdallah Hasan is appointed chief of staff of the National Guard.

Four Former Senior Government Officials Arrested

AB141720 Paris AFP in English 1634 GMT 14 Dec 84

[By Kader Diop]

[Excerpts] Nouakchott, Dec 14 (AFP) — Mauritania's new military rulers have arrested four top officials of the former regime and the deposed military president, Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, who was seized as he stepped off a plane bringing him back from the French-African summit yesterday, it was reported here today.

Reliable sources said the officials included three soldiers removed from the ruling Military Committee of National Salva-

tion by the new president, Army Chief of Staff Colonel Maaouyia Sidi 'Ahmed Ould Taya, whose takeover was announced on national radio on Wednesday afternoon. The three are Lieutenant Colonel Haydala's director of security, Naval Lieutenant Moustapha Diop; a minister-counsellor to the ex-president, Colonel Ould Hussein; and a former higher education minister, Colonel Athie Amath. The other official arrested was Food Aid Commissioner Captain Moulay Hachem, the sources said. All five men are reportedly under guard in a military camp in Nouakchott. Another former member of the military council, Major Ould Zein, who commands the paramilitary gendarmes, was reportedly in Paris at the time of the coup, which appears to have been bloodless.

Reliable sources in Nouakchott said the plot against Lieutenant Colonel Haydala, 44, had been under way for several weeks. After he left Monday for the summit meeting of France and its African partners in Bujumbura, the plotters held a long meeting Tuesday at the Army Headquarters. The following day, military patrols were placed at strategic points in Nouakchott including the radio station, and the takeover was announced.

In a statement last night on the radio, the ruling military committee claimed that Lieutenant Colonel Haydala had "built a system of government of waste, corruption and personal power." The statement accused the former president of having tried to abuse mass education structures to create a cult of personality. This clearly indicated that the coup-makers felt Lieutenant Colonel Haydala had tried to vitiate the collegial nature of the 15-member Military Committee, set up after the coup that deposed civilian President Mokhtar Ould Daddah in 1978. Lieutenant Colonel Haydala staged a further coup in 1980, taking power from President Mohamed Ould Ahmed Louly.

Foreign policy considerations did not seem to have played a big role in this week's coup. The new regime has not called into question the peace and friendship treaty concluded by the former president with Tunisia and Algeria, which sent an emissary to meet Colonel Taya right after he took over. Nor has the new regime moved to reverse Mauritania's recognition of the SDAR proclaimed by Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas fighting against Morocco in the Western Sahara on Mauritania's northern border.

After the military regime took Mauritania out of the Western Sahara conflict in 1978 (Nouakchott and Rabat had shared out the territory after the Spanish withdrew in 1975), it tried to maintain a policy of neutrality that upset Morocco, which accused Mauritania of being a staging area for the guerrillas.

Observers Speculate on Leaning of New Government *AB131550 Paris AFP in French 1456 GMT 13 Dec 84*

[Text] Dakar, 13 Dec (AFP)—Some observers in Dakar feel that Colonel Maaouyia Sidi 'Ahmed Ould Taya's coming to power in Mauritania after a coup d'etat may facilitate a rapprochement between that country and Morocco, or in any case a separation from the SDAR to achieve a greater balance in relations between Morocco and Algeria. This hypothesis comes from an analysis of the orientation of the new Mauritanian Government, which was

disclosed in an official statement read on Radio Nouakchott after the announcement of the coup d'etat, and in the absence of any information from Nouakchott. Communication between Senegal and Mauritania has been cut since Wednesday afternoon.

By referring to the "fundamental objectives of the 10 July 1978 movement" (the date on which the army took power), the communique seems to indicate a return to the policies that the former president, Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck, leader of the coup which overthrew President Mokhtar Ould Daddah, imposed on the country. This policy implied the withdrawal of Mauritania from the conflict with the Polisario, without recognizing the SDAR as such, and an attempt to maintain a balance between Morocco and Algeria.

But already the factions were clashing within the Army in order to tilt the balance, either in favor of Morocco or in favor of Algeria. and, therefore, the Polisario Front. President Ould Saleck was reported to be rather pro-Morocco but was gradually removed from power and finally replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Ould Haydala, himself of Saharan origin.

However, it was not until this year that President Ould Haydala reached his objective — the recognition of the SDAR. It appears this decision was made without stiff opposition from a large portion of the ruling Military Committee of National Salvation [CMSN], an opposition which, according to some rumors at the time, was led by Colonel Maaouyia Sidi 'Ahmed Ould Taya, the new leader of Mauritania. Col Ould Taya, who had to abandon his political functions as prime minister, was, however, appointed chief of staff of the Army, unquestionably an important position on the political scene in a military regime.

Col Ould Taya is presented as a moderate and is more subtle in his positions than his predecessor, observers in Dakar note and even mention his family links with Morocco.

If it is confirmed that there is some rapprochement with Morocco, the threats of Moroccan forces pursuing Polisario units, accused by Morocco of using Mauritania as a rear base to launch attacks against Moroccan positions in Western Sahara, could be avoided. But at the same time Mauritania would again come against the Polisario forces, undoubtedly better equipped and stronger than the Mauritanian Army.

Col Ould Taya will no doubt have as many difficulties as his predecessor in persuading his neighbors — Morocco, Algeria, and the SDAR — that Mauritania intends to maintain and can observe a strict neutrality in the Western Sahara conflict in order to fully concentrate on solving the problems of its national economy.

Maaouyia Receives IMF Delegation 15 Dec *AB160933 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 16 Dec 84*

[Text] Colonel Maaouyia Sidi 'Ahmed Ould Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state, received in audience yesterday morning an IMF delegation. This delegation, made up of two persons, is led by the IMF West Africa department chief. The

audience, which took place in the presence of Lieutenant Colonel Anna Amadou Babali, the minister of finance and commerce and Dieng Boubou Farba, the governor of the Central Bank of Mauritania, was devoted to reviewing relations between our country and the IMF.

Opposition Group Assesses New Leadership

AB141545 Paris AFP in French 1514 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Paris, 14 Dec (AFP) — The chairman of the Organization of Mauritanian Nationalists (an opposition movement in exile), Khadri Ould Die, is of the opinion that the first declarations of the new rulers in Nouakchott demonstrate that they "belong to the Algerian-Polisario camp and this can never solve country's problems."

The Military Committee for National Salvation (CMSN) which has been headed by Colonel Maaouya Sidi 'Ahmed Taya since Wednesday, said on Thursday in a communique published by Radio Nouakchott that Mauritania would not reconsider the recognition of the SDAR.

In a communique that reached AFP on Thursday, Mr Ould Die said that his movement demanded "a neutral position concerning the problem of Sahara," as well as "the immediate liberation of all political detainees" imprisoned by Mr Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, the Mauritanian president overthrown on Wednesday. The Organization of Mauritanian Nationalists wants "the definition of an economic policy which can free the Mauritanian nationalists as was created last May by Mr Ould Die. It comprises 247 Mauritanian military men in exile "scattered between Rome and Beirut," according to the communique.

SUDAN

Embassies To Be Reopened in Jordan, Algeria

JN141431 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Dec (SUNA) — President of the Republic Ja'far Muhammad Numayri issued a decree here today reopening Sudan's embassies in Algeria and Jordan. Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman has said that his ministry is currently entrusted with implementing President Numayri's decree in this regard. It is worth noting that Sudan had closed 22 of its embassies in order to reduce expenditures, and that a number of embassies were recently reopened.

AL-WATAN Interviews President Numayri

LD151015 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0909 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Dec (KUNA) — In an interview with *AL-WATAN* published here today, Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri admitted the existence of Libyan opposition within his country. He explained, however, that this opposition uses media and political means and not armed violence for changing the Tripoli regime.

President Numayri said there are only 300 detainees in Sudan, including Islamic leader Sadiq al-Mahdi and his group comprising 16 persons, and 25 persons from the Republicans [Jumhuriyin] who call for a new application of Islam. The remaining detainees are Ba'thists and communists.

The Sudanese president excluded the possibility of releasing these detainees following the abolishment of the emergency laws "because they threaten the public regime and if released would organize secret parties and travel to Libya and return with weapons."

He bitterly criticized the Sudanese opposition abroad, saying they are "either against the Islamic application; the head of state; recruited by other trends; or are among those who went along with the current and started opposing without rational understanding." He defended his plans for applying Islam in the Sudan and said these plans were not a surprise "as we have prepared for the matter since the 1970s."

He pointed out that before the application of the shari'a, there was a robbery every 6 hours, a rape every 10 hours, and a theft every 66 minutes in the Sudan. He said that following the application of the shari'a, the number of crimes decreased 40 percent. He said the number of those on whom the Islamic law for theft has been applied does not exceed 60 of the well-known, dangerous criminals.

President Numayri admitted that the application of the shari'a has affected Sudan's relations with the outside world. He accused the World Council of Churches with carrying out a hate campaign against the Sudan and attempting to present the situation as a conflict between Islam and Christianity. He said that had led to negative reactions within the European Parliament, which subsequently affected the implementation of signed agreements between certain European countries and the Sudan.

President Numayri admitted that Major (Ma'mun Awad Abu Zayd), one of the prominent leaders of 1969 revolution, has joined the opposition abroad. But Numayri said that this stance was the result of an "addiction that destroyed his family and personal life in addition to his political career."

Romanian Economic Delegation Arrives 15 Dec

JN151514 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Dec (SUNA) — Ion Stoian, Romanian deputy minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, arrived here this morning at the head of an economic delegation on a 6-day visit to the country at the invitation of Ibrahim Mun'im Mansur, Sudanese minister of finance and economic planning. This visit is aimed at promoting and expanding cooperative relations between the two countries in all fields, and at overcoming the obstacles hampering the implementation of the economic cooperation protocol which the two countries signed in Bucharest last September. The visiting delegation will meet with a number of officials in charge of the economic sectors.

Sees Commerce, Irrigation Ministers

JN161824 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Dec (SUNA) — Minister of Cooperation, Commerce, and Supply Ja'far Hasan Salih received Romanian Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and International Economic Cooperation Ion Stoian in Khartoum today. The two sides discussed bilateral trade relations in light of the economic cooperation protocol which was signed in Bucharest last September. The minister welcomed the visiting delegation, stressing the importance of the implementation of the protocol regarding the export of Sudanese commodities. The Romanian delegation also showed understanding of this point, explaining that the visit is aimed at expanding trade relations with Sudan, where it will meet with a number of officials from the economic sector and

from establishments and companies in both the public and private sectors.

Minister of Irrigation Saghirun al-Zayn Saghirun also reviewed with Ion Stoian and his delegation some subjects relating to irrigation and the projects included in the development plan. They also discussed ways to activate relations between the two countries in the various fields. The Romanian delegation arrived in the country yesterday on a 6-day visit to Sudan at the invitation of Minister of Finance and Economic Planning Ibrahim Mun'im Mansur.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu, Delegation Pay Official Visit to Cuba

For Addis Ababa and Havana radio reports on the 3-day visit to Cuba by Mengistu Haile Mariam, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, including his meeting with Fidel Castro, see the Cuba section of the 17 December Latin America *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Mengistu Visits USSR, Talks With Chernenko

For reports on the visit to the Soviet Union by Mengistu Haile Mariam, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, including his meeting with Konstantin Chernenko, see the Sub-Saharan Africa section of the 17 December Soviet Union *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Eritrean Leader Predicts 'Stepped-up War Efforts'

LD142100 Kuwait KUNA in English 1707 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Inside liberated part of Eritrea, Dec 14 (KUNA) — A special envoy of the Saudi monarch arrived here on board a private plane to take part in the conference held by various factions of the Eritrean Liberation Movements in a bid to reunify their forces.

Diplomatic sources in Khartoum told KUNA correspondent that the special envoy who arrived in the Sudanese capital Thursday immediately flew to Kasla in the eastern sector of the Sudan [words indistinct].

From there he left to liberated Eritrean territory to attend as observer the reunification conference attended by representatives of the Eritrean Liberation Front-Popular Forces, headed by Othman Saleh Sebbi, and the Revolutionary Committee led by Abdul Kader Jilani, and the Revolutionary Council headed by Abdullah Idris.

Representatives from Syria, Iraq, Sudan, in addition to the Saudi envoy, are taking part in the meeting as observers.

KUNA correspondent had earlier entered liberated Eritrean lands and saw a military camp for the unified organization which was announced recently in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, grouping the three attending factions under Sebbi.

While unity preparations are well underway between the three factions, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Eritrea is still out of the frame.

Daily field meetings are held by representatives of the three factions to prepare the final unity formula which will be signed by the leaders.

Eritrean [word indistinct] told KUNA that Sebbi's election as head of the unified organization is a formality but differences are still unresolved on who will head the military council which will be either of the leaders of the other two factions.

Sebbi, in an appeal through the KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY, has asked the world at large and the Arab countries in particular to support the Eritrean revolution's efforts to attain independence and asked for speedy and effective human aid to help the people who are starving to death because of the acute food shortage caused by drought.

He requested medicine and foodstuff noting that around a million Eritreans have crowded into camps along the Eritrean-Sudanese borders in quest for food crumbs.

KUNA correspondent saw three children die out of hunger in Umm-Sharifain Refugee Camp in less than ten minutes as well as mass graves for hundreds of people who daily pass out.

Meanwhile, Jilani expected that the Eritrean arena will witness stepped-up war efforts following the unification of the three factions which Sebbi predicted would be declared within the next 48 hours.

KENYA

Foreign Minister Receives Tunisian Envoy

EA141841 Nairobi KNA in English 1025 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Nairobi, Dec 14: The minister for foreign affairs, Mr Elijah Mwangale, has stressed the need for intensified cooperation in the areas of trade and tourism between Kenya and Tunisia. He said this when he met a special envoy sent by the president of Tunisia, Mr Habib Bourguiba, to deliver a special message to President Moi. The minister received the message on behalf of President Moi yesterday.

The minister praised the role the Tunisian and Kenyan leaders were playing in bringing the African people together and singled out President Moi's effort in bringing about a climate of good understanding cooperation in eastern Africa.

The Tunisian envoy, Mr Mahmud (Mistiri), said Kenya and Tunisia were much closer than the distance between them showed.

Present were the chief of protocol Mr D. Afande, and the head of Africa desk, Mr O. Faikh, and other officials of foreign affairs.

TANZANIA

Party Leader Thanks USSR Envoy for Aid

EA162349 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Party Secretary General Ndugu Rashid Kawawa today held talks with Yuriy Yukalov, Soviet ambassador to the country, during which he thanked the CPSU for its assistance, which he

said had greatly helped the struggle by the Chama Cha Mapinduzi [CCM] to build socialism in Tanzania.

During the talks, held at the party suboffice in Dar es Salaam, Ndugu Kawawa said that the assistance provided by the CPSU included vehicles, cameras, paper, and the training of party cadres. Replying to Ndugu Kawawa's sentiments, Mr Yukalov said that the CPSU will continue assisting the CCM because, he said, it respects and understands Tanzania's intention to build a socialist state. Mr Yukalov said Tanzania has great potential for self-sufficiency in oil because it has large areas where oil crops

could prosper. He pledged that the Soviet Union will assist Tanzania with oil crop seeds, particularly olive seeds, in an effort to intensify the production of these crops.

Speaking on the issue, Ndugu Kawawa said that shortage of seeds hinders the cultivation of olive, groundnuts, and sesame oil crops, and that if the citizens are provided with seeds, they are ready to expand the cultivation of these crops which would lead to self-sufficiency in oil.

CAMEROON

Crocker Criticized for Remarks on U.S.-RSA Tie
AB142250 Yaounde Domestic Service in French
 1200 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] The UN General Assembly yesterday adopted by a large majority seven draft resolutions condemning apartheid. The resolutions cover a wide range of activities of the apartheid regime. They condemn notably the relations between Israel and South Africa, apartheid in sports, and the new South African constitution, which has been in force since last September and which allowed Coloreds and Indians to participate politically in the government. The resolutions were, however, amended by Washington to eliminate references to the increased collaboration of the American Government with Pretoria.

But Washington goes further than that in its unwillingness to support the resolutions. Chester Crocker, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, yesterday rejected the idea of American sanctions against South Africa. Mr Crocker stated that recent public statements made in the United States against apartheid do not mean in any way a change in the American Government's policy of constructive engagement with South Africa. Such a statement deals a blow to the flicker of hope roused by recent American positions.

One step forward, two steps backward, seems to be the maneuver in which the American Administration has been indulging. By preaching to Pretoria for the first time a few days ago to stop its barbaric policy of oppressing the blacks in southern Africa, President Reagan created a real sensation. It was a sensation because the United States has always stood by the racist Pretoria regime when it was criticized.

The position taken by the Assistant Secretary of State Chester Crocker on this issue is not surprising. But it comes in a slightly different context than the previous ones. About 120 American companies operating in South Africa have already undertaken the job of eliminating racial segregation in their companies by paying the same salaries to whites and blacks and by intervening in favor of social reforms in South Africa.

Certainly the great economic relations between Washington and Pretoria had much to do with the position taken by the American assistant secretary of state. About 350 American firms have industrial or financial dealings in South Africa, where direct American investments amount to a total of \$2.3 billion.

In his press conference, Mr Crocker also stressed that the fact that public attacks had been made in the last few days, against apartheid, especially by President Reagan, does not mean the abandoning of constructive engagement and that the United States had never excluded open diplomacy with South Africa. We want to speak loud and clear and want to be heard both in the United States, where many anti-apartheid demonstrations have taken place over the past few days, and abroad, he stated. In short, for the American Government, all is going quite well, but certainly the blacks in South Africa do not share that feeling if the Americans are going to condone apartheid.

Briefs

France Grants Loan — France and Cameroon yesterday signed a loan agreement for a total amount of 14.125 billion CFA. The loan, which is granted by the French Central Fund for Economic Cooperation, will be used to implement water supply projects in Yaounde and for the development of rubber tree plantations. The signing ceremony took place in Yaounde. [Summary] [*Yaounde Domestic Service in French* 0600 GMT 15 Dec 84 AB]

CHAD

Habre Inaugurates New Air Terminal in Ndjamen
AB161127 Ndjamen Domestic Service in French
 1330 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Excerpts] An important ceremony took place this morning at the international airport of Ndjamen. The ceremony, which marked the reopening of the airport terminal to international flights, was presided over by President Hissein Habre in the presence of members of the government, the Executive Bureau of the National Union for Independence and Revolution Central Committee, the diplomatic corps, the representatives of international organizations, directors general, permanent secretaries, and army officers.

At the beginning of the ceremony, Minister of Transportation Lol Mahamat Choua said in an address that the rehabilitation of the buildings of the Ndjamen International Airport will show passengers in transit that the Chadian Government is making concrete actions.

[Begin Choua recording] Thanks to the rehabilitation works, Chad will be able to make available an airport that fulfills all conditions for landing and taking off and meets all security norms as required by international air transport conventions. This will be completed in the coming days with the installation [words indistinct]. The rehabilitation could be made thanks to a financial assistance from the African Development Fund [ADF] amounting to about 6.912 million account units, that is over 2 billion CFA francs. [end recording]

President Hissein Habre also spoke of the importance of the ceremony:

[Begin Habre recording] The modernization of the Ndjamen air terminal will strengthen the efforts we have been making. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our gratitude to the fund donors, friendly countries, or financial institutions that have already shown encouraging signs of solidarity with our people since the Geneva conference on assistance to Chad. I would like to express the special thanks of the Chadian Government to the FADF.

In consenting to financing the rehabilitation works on the air terminal, and certainly other future projects, the African Development Bank and the ADF show once again that their policies

on the development of the infrastructures in our countries have never departed from their original goals. My greatest hope is for this building to contribute effectively to enhancing Chad's recovery and to the development of its ties with foreign countries. [end recording]

Briefs

EEC Relief Aid — The European Economic Community has announced in a press release, which has just reached us, an additional loan of 2 million European Currency Units [ECU's] for assistance to the Chadian people, who are affected by drought and hunger. The aid comes in addition to 3 million ECU's allocated on 1 November and to the 2 million ECU's earmarked for the 1984 crop-planting season. [Summary] [Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1330 GMT 15 Dec 84 AB]

GABON

Bongo Returns, Comments on Bujumbura Summit
AB141045 Libreville Africa No.1 in French
0630 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Gabonese President Omar Bongo returned home yesterday afternoon from Bujumbura, the Burundian capital, where he had attended the 11th Franco-African summit. Speaking to the press, the Gabonese leader paid tribute to the host country of the conference, which he described as the best summit ever:

[Begin recording] I described the Bujumbura conference as the best because this time we turned away from the beaten track. We examined economic problems in regard to the Lagos resolutions and the resolutions of the 20th OAU summit. My brother, Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, made a very comprehensive report. On the basis of this report, we all told the French head of state that these were our needs. Mr Mitterrand said 500 million francs were earmarked in the French budget for assistance to the states affected by natural calamities. In a nutshell, that conference was among the best because we examined economic matters. For me, as you may know, economic matters are more important than mere politicking. This is why I say the Bujumbura conference was the best. [end recording]

Before returning to Libreville, President Bongo made a surprise visit to Sao Tome and Principe. The Gabonese head of state explains the purpose of the visit:

[Begin recording] Some time ago, I told you that in 1985 Gabon would effect a wide review of its door-to-door diplomacy. In this connection, I went successively to Equatorial Guinea and did what I could. [sentence as heard].

Tomorrow — so to speak — on Sunday, I will visit Brazzaville for the upcoming summit of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa [UDEAC]. This summit will mark both the 20th anniversary of the union and the definitive admission of Equatorial Guinea into the UDEAC and into the franc zone.

Also, I considered our other friends. I cannot only visit Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Congo, CAR. Why shouldn't I visit Sao Tome and Principe since the leaders of that country are our friends. We helped them achieve their independence. This is why I took the opportunity of my flight back to visit Sao Tome and Principe. [end recording]

ZAIRE

'Deterioration' in Relations With Burundi Reported
AB142245 PARIS AFP in English 1743 GMT 14 Dec 84

[By Mickael Anders]

[Text] Bujumbura, Dec 14 (AFP) — The tiny east African state of Burundi and its giant neighbor Zaire appear to have begun a war of words over the airwaves, confirming a deterioration in relations between them over the last week or so, observers said here today in the Burundi capital.

Official Burundi radio yesterday launched an unprecedented verbal attack on the Zairian regime of Marsha. Mobutu Sese Seko, apparently in reply to a similar hostile broadcast from Kinshasa about Burundi. Quoting "concordant sources in Paris, Washington, Brussels, and Dar es Salaam" as well as a correspondent for the BURUNDI NEWS AGENCY, Burundi radio described last month's violence in the eastern Zairian town of Moba as an "internal uprising" whose causes were "(?apparent) in the catastrophic situation prevailing in Zaire."

Zairian officials had attributed the violence, in which more than 100 people reportedly died, to attackers entering Zaire from neighboring Tanzania.

The Burundian broadcast came the day after the close of the Franco-African summit, which Burundi hosted here.

Marshal Mobutu had initially said he would not attend the summit, but changed his mind at the last minute, apparently after strong persuasion from French President Francois Mitterrand. At the summit meeting, the Zairian President was given the third "seat of honor," alongside Mr Mitterrand and Burundian President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, but observers said he nevertheless showed signs of ill humour.

Yesterday's broadcast, which observers here believe must have had high-level approval, may have been in part a reaction to the Zairian leader's attitude, which included a pointed lack of applause for passages in the Burundian president's speech, which Marshal Mobutu apparently did not like. The radio said the situation in eastern Zaire, the part of the huge country that is nearest to Burundi, was "dramatic." It said the region was "totally ignored by the central government" in Kinshasa.

The broadcast also quoted the Paris-based magazine *AFRIQUE-ASIE* as saying Marshal Mobutu had asked the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for "hundreds of experts and special units in order to vanquish his people" because he knew France would not help him. The broadcast ended with the comment:

"It would have been better to ask for food aid for a people in distress, than arms for repression."

The tension between the two countries appears to have begun with the unexpected failure by Colonel Bagaza to attend the swearing-in in Kinshasa on December 5 of Marshal Mobutu for a third 7-year term as president. Informed sources here explained the Burundian leader's absence by a last-minute transport hitch. France also angered Marshal Mobutu when it failed to send an official to the ceremony.

Reaction to Burundi Radio Attacks

AB160949 Paris AFP in English 0711 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Kinshasa, Dec 16 (AFP) — A Burundi state radio attack against the Zairian regime last week, alleging a "catastrophic situation" in the country, "is not being taken very seriously here," authoritative sources said Saturday.

Zaire did not wish to make the situation any worse, the sources said, voicing "surprise" that Burundi claimed the media here had published "unfriendly" remarks about it. Approaches were being made through diplomatic channels to ascertain the official position of the Bujumbura government, the ZAIRIAN NEWS AGENCY reported.

Decrees Issued Concerning Executive Council

AB161242 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1340 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Decree No 84-249, of 14 December 1984, amending Decree No 82-046, of 31 March 1982, concerning the organization and functioning of the Executive Council.

The MPR founding-chairman and president of the republic, considering the constitution, notably Articles 36 and 45; having revised Decree No 82-046, of 31 March 1982, concerning the organization and function of the Executive Council decrees:

Sole Article: The third paragraph of Article 38 of Decree No 82-046, of 31 March 1982, has been repealed and replaced by the following provisions: "The secretary of the Executive Council shall be assisted by a deputy secretary nominated under the same conditions. In case of absence or temporary incapacitation, the Executive Council secretary shall be replaced by the deputy secretary or, in his absence, by a state secretary designated by the MPR founding-chairman and president of the republic or, if need be, by the first state commissioner."

Issued in Kinshasa on 14 December 1984. [Signed] Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga

Decree No 84-250, of 14 December 1984, concerning the nomination of the deputy secretary of the Executive Council, the MPR founding-chairman and president of the republic, considering the Constitution, notably Article 42, considering Decree No 82-046 as amended to this day, concerning the organization and function of the Executive Council, notably Article 36, decrees: Article 1: citizen Botolo Magoza, adviser to the officer of the MPR founding-chairman and president of the republic, has been nominated as the deputy secretary of the Executive Council. Article 2: This present decree takes effect on the day of its signing.

Issued in Kinshasa on 14 December 1984. [Signed] Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga

BURKINA

'Serious Food Problems' Result of Drought

AB141900 Paris AFP in French 1422 GMT 13 Dec 84

[By Philippe Mudry]

[Text] Ouagadougou, 13 Dec (AFP) — Nearly 1 million people in northern and northeastern Burkina Faso have very serious food problems due to the drought which raged there during the rainy season. According to information received from the Ministry of Family Affairs and Solidarity in Ouagadougou, the grain deficit has been estimated at 163,000 tons by the authorities.

While the west and southwestern parts of the country produced a reasonable quantity of grain, the irregularity and insufficiency of the rains in the regions of Yatenga and the Sahel, bordering Mali and Niger, resulted in a very poor harvest — if any at all in some areas — requiring the public authorities to undertake a vigorous grain distribution exercise, the same source added. Furthermore, because of the influx of a large number of refugees from Mali and Niger, whose exact number it is difficult to establish now, and because of a high fodder deficit — pastures are rare and even nonexistent in the traditional pastoral regions like the Sahel — Burkina Faso estimates its total food needs at 250,000 tons, Mrs Josephine Ouedraogo, the minister of family affairs and solidarity, specified.

In order to withstand this situation, which is more difficult than that of last year when the deficit was only 120,000 tons, "we have introduced an operational strategy aimed partly at providing food aid and partly at gaining access to the disaster regions, which are sometimes very difficult to reach," Mrs Ouedraogo continued.

Concerning the supply of food items, the public authorities want, first of all, to use the revolutionary solidarity fund which consists of voluntary contributions by the people of Burkina Faso. Out of the 500 million CFA francs contributed to the fund since its creation in 1983, there remains 150,000 CFA francs, which can be used to buy grain. According to the same source, part of the fund has been used [words indistinct] by the people concerned and the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR) of the Dori-Gorom road in the Sahel region. The state of this road made sending supplies to this area, which was severely hit this fall by the torrential rains, almost impossible.

Additionally, it has been learned from the ministry that a national committee to fight the effects of the drought has been established. Shouldered by regional commissions, it is charged with the responsibility of evaluating the real on-the-spot needs of the people while a rapid deployment brigade has been assigned the mission of rapidly mounting convoys of vehicles for emergency supply expeditions to the people in disaster areas. On this point, the government has asked donor countries to help build a parking lot, the cost of which is estimated at 350 million CFA francs, for the distribution exercise.

In the economic field, the government has decided to gradually increase the price of grain from the farmers in order to build up the grain supply of the National Grain Board (Ofnacer). This rise

in the price — the cost price of a kilo of millet has risen from 66 to 80 CFA — should enable the Ofnacer to improve upon its purchasing campaign, making it less attractive to the farmer to sell his products to merchants and also to encourage him to increase his production.

"Besides this national effort, we have made known our needs to the donor countries: 250,000 tons of food, half of which will be given out and the other half sold; funds for the resurfacing of the Kaya-Diori road in the northwestern part of the country, valued at 250 million CFA francs, as well as funds for the construction of a parking lot for the distribution exercise (350 million CFA)," Mrs Ouedraogo specified.

The minister did not hide her "disappointment" at the attitude of the donors who, she said, "seem to wish for a S.O.S. in its true and proper form."

In regard to these donors, we do not feel we have been kept very well informed. Some assert that they will make everything known [words indistinct] "as soon as they obtain complementary information on the respective commitments of the other donors."

Concerning aid already received, it has been learned from agencies and donor countries that 2,000 tons of grains will be delivered by France by January, 2,000 tons of Chinese corn and the sum of 670 million CFA francs were supplied by the European Development Fund to support Ofnacer's purchasing campaign, as well as another 300 million CFA francs for emergency purchases. Some donors, like the FAO or the United States, have not yet made their intentions known, but others like France and other European countries have made it known that their complementary aid will be definitively stopped in a few weeks.

However, some donors stress that apart from the international food aid, "the distribution of supplies to the hardest hit zones will depend largely on the attitude of the Burkina traders," whose business the same source hopes could be made easy by the satisfactory harvests from the southwestern part of Burkina Faso, as well as from the neighboring coastal countries.

CAPE VERDE

Storm Causes Crop Damage of Nearly \$2 Million

AB150926 Paris AFP in English 0419 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Praia, Dec 15 (AFP) — A severe storm which hit the Cape Verde Islands in September caused crop damage amounting to 1,841,814 dollars, Secretary of State for Cooperation and Planning Jose Brito told the diplomatic corps here Friday in a report on the agricultural situation in the Atlantic archipelago. He said the current grain deficit stood at 26,582 tons. Next year's requirement had been set at 77,400 tons, of which 70,168 tons were known to be available.

Mr Brito said local production in the often drought-stricken islands for 1985 was estimated at 8,000 tons, with food aid from abroad of 39,060 tons. That compared with relief supplies this year of 50,926 tons of maize, rice and flour.

GHANA

Delegation Leaves for Talks in Saudi Arabia

ABI51014 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT
15 Dec 84

[Text] A three-man delegation led by Alhaji (Momuni Bahomia) has flown to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to join another government delegation there for talks with the Saudi authorities on economic cooperation. Speaking to newsmen before departure, the Saudi charge d'affaires in Ghana, Mr (Abwal Fatah 'Abd al-Abu), who saw the delegation off, said he was happy that the meeting which was planned since last year has now come to reality.

He said from all indications, there is goodwill by both countries to improve relations. He hoped that the results of the meeting would benefit both countries. Mr ('Abd al-Abu) recalled the help his country gave Ghana during the construction of the Kpong hydroelectric project and said his country is prepared to support future developmental projects in the country.

He said arrangements are being made for the Ghanaian delegation led by a PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] member, Mr Justice D.F. Annan, to meet Saudi ministers, as well as King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, to discuss issues that affect both countries. They will discuss areas of cooperation in mining and timber industry. From Riyadh, the delegation will go on to Kuwait and to the United Arab Emirates where they will hold similar talks with the respective governments.

LIBERIA

PRC Delegation Departs After 4-Day Visit

ABI42300 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT
14 Dec 84

[Text] Chinese Vice Premier Tian Jiyun today assured his government's readiness to continue its assistance toward Liberia's socioeconomic development program. He said such assistance will cover the areas of agriculture, education, and infrastructure development. Mr Tian was speaking at a press conference at the Roberts International Airport in Marshal Territory shortly before his departure for China today following the end of a 4-day official visit to Liberia. The Chinese vice premier, whose official delegation included the adviser to the Chinese minister of foreign affairs, Gong Dafei, and vice minister of foreign economy and trade, Lu Xuejian, arrived in Monrovia last Tuesday. He said even though China is undergoing a period of transformation, it is always ready to assist traditional African brothers in their national development efforts.

While in the country, the Chinese officials held discussions with the Liberian leader on the promotion of bilateral economic cooperation between China and Liberia. Vice Premier Tian said that as a result of their discussions, his government looks forward to receiving proposals and suggestions from the Liberian Government for additional Chinese assistance toward specific development projects in the country.

The Chinese vice premier was seen off at the Roberts International Airport by Interim National Assembly [INA] Vice President Dr Harry Moniba, Acting INA Speaker Brigadier General Abraham Kollie, and Youth and Sports Minister Col Fred Blay, among others.

National Assembly Adjourns Until 15 Jan

ABI42305 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT
14 Dec 84

[Text] The Interim National Assembly, which has for the past 5 months been sitting since its institution, has adjourned for recess until January 15 next year so as to enable the members to return to the assembly for the season. [sentence as heard]

Meanwhile, the head of state and president of the Interim National Assembly, Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, has instructed the Executive Committee to continue functioning in the day-to-day affairs of the government during the recess period. [sentence as heard]

MALI

Malaysian Prime Minister Arrives for Visit

ABI61022 Paris AFP in English 1007 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Bamako, Dec 16 (AFP) — Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad arrived here Saturday for a four-day official visit to the West African state of Mali.

Mr Mahathir, who was greeted by the Malian head of state, General Moussa Traore, said his visit would help to "consolidate and strengthen the ties of friendship between our two peoples" and establish personal contact between Malian and Malaysian leaders.

Mr Mahathir said that during his stay he would be discussing bilateral relations with Malian officials. He noted that Malaysian agricultural experts were currently working in Mali and Malians were being trained in Malaysia.

Mr Mahathir, who is accompanied by a 40-member delegation, was going to the Tombouctou region of northern Mali today before having talks with General Traore.

NIGER

Kountche Ends U.S. Visit, Arrives in Paris

ABI41730 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT
14 Dec 84

[Excerpt] President Seyni Kountche's 4-day visit to the United States has ended. The head of state arrived in Paris this morning where he will meet Christian Nucci, the French minister of cooperation and development.

Later he will be a guest at a dinner hosted by President Mitterrand.

Further on U.S. Visit

AB160945 Niamey Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] General Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of state, returned to Niamey yesterday afternoon following his official visit to the United States where he met with many U.S. authorities. President Kountche held talks with President Ronald Reagan, Vice President George Bush, Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, leading officials of the U.S. Agency for International Development [USAID] and of the Peace Corps, as well as those of the World Bank, the IMF, and the African diplomatic corps in Washington.

President Seyni Kountche later visited Mississippi where he was made doctor honoris causa of Mississippi State University in recognition of his work toward self-sufficiency in food production in our country.

The head of state's talks with the U.S. authorities touched on bilateral relations between our country and the United States, the problems facing the Sahel, and the general and specific preoccupations over Africa's development. Taking stock of his visit, President Kountche expressed his great comfort over the talks which he held with American authorities. In this connection, at the bilateral level, Presidents Kountche and Ronald Reagan examined the cooperation program, especially those initiated by USAID. In this connection, further efforts will be made, notably in the rural sector. This will back up the new strategy of development and assistance in the field of agriculture, animal husbandry, water resources, and the fight against desert encroachment, as well as in the field of health.

During the visit three financial conventions were signed. The first one concerns the pursuance of the Niamey [words indistinct] and a new orientation based on micro-projects. The second convention provides for a second consignment of food relief totaling 48,000 tons. It will be recalled that the convention for the first consignment of such food relief was signed here in Niamey and provided for 15,000 tons of wheat which will soon arrive at the Lome port. The entire U.S. pledge of food aid totals 100,000 tons of wheat.

NIGERIA**Buhari Receives Outgoing Ethiopian Ambassador**

AB150943 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Nigeria plans to take adequate measures to counter the drought which occurs at 10-year intervals. The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, gave this indication while he received the outgoing Ethiopian ambassador, Mr Kassate Badima, in Lagos.

He emphasized that only self-reliance could reduce the effects of natural disasters. Gen Buhari stated that Nigeria would continue to assist needy African countries within the limits of her resources.

The envoy had earlier told Gen Buhari that more than 7 million Ethiopians would have to be resettled as a result of the drought in the country. Mr Badima said that he enjoyed his 7-year stay in Nigeria and hoped for better cooperation between the two countries.

Buhari Receives Venezuelan Message on OPEC

AB150935 Lagos NAN in English 0928 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Lagos, Dec 14 (NAN) — The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, today in Lagos received a message from his Venezuelan counterpart.

It was delivered by the Venezuelan ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Christian Van Der Ree.

The message expressed the Venezuelan head of state's concern over developments in the oil market and called on OPEC members to rally round the organization.

Maj Gen Buhari said that the oil market was now under much pressure. The ambassador had earlier told the head of state that Venezuela was willing to train Nigerians in the oil industry.

Port of Calabar To Handle Drought Relief

AB150922 Lagos NAN in English 0856 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Calabar, Dec 14 (NAN) — The Calabar Port has been earmarked by the Federal Government to handle over N45,000 [figure as received] tonnes of relief promised the drought-hit Niger Republic by the American Government.

The Niger ambassador to Nigeria, Alhaji Moustapha Tohi, disclosed this while visiting the port yesterday to assess its suitability for handling the cargo which is mainly sorghum. Alhaji Moustapha said his recommendations to his government would take into consideration the nature of the road networks, ease in procuring haulage trucks and other logistics between Calabar and Maradi, in Niger Republic, a distance of about 1,500 kilometers.

The port manager, Mr Okon Abia-Bassey, told the ambassador that, in earlier discussions with U.S. officials, it was the installation of an evacuator which would bag the grains in the course of off-loading the ships. [sentence as received]

Niger State To Control Islamic Preaching

AB150940 Lagos NAN in English 0852 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Minna, Dec 14 (NAN) — The Niger military governor, Lt Col David Mark, today in Minna said that the state government would establish an Islamic board to control preaching in the state.

Addressing religious and traditional rulers in his office, Lt Col Mark directed all local government administrators to register religious institutions in their areas. He called on religious leaders to check the proliferation of preaching groups.

The governor then warned that any group, particularly in schools, that refused to sing the national anthem or recite the national pledge on religious ground would be disbanded. "This is because the state government has no room for any group of persons who are religious fanatics in the state," Lt Col Mark said.

'Flicker of Hope' for Change in U.S.-RSA Relations

AB141745 Lagos International Service in English 0950 GMT
14 Dec 84

[Viewpoint]

[Text] One of the most serious political contradictions of our time has been the fraternization between the United States under President Reagan and the racist regime in South Africa. While the United States prides itself on being a model of democracy, the racist clique in South Africa remains the most notorious fascist regime in contemporary history. The two are, therefore, poles apart in their political strategies and perceptions.

But curiously, on assuming office for the first term in 1980, President Reagan formed the political notion which he called constructive engagement or quiet diplomacy in relation to the apartheid regime. Agents of the Reagan administration told the world that the crux of the constructive engagement policy was to quietly influence the racist authorities in Pretoria to change the barbaric system of apartheid.

But political analysts in and outside Africa quickly warned the U.S. Government that the new-fangled notion would be counter-productive and end up as a disaster. That exactly has happened. Instead of helping the racists to see reason, the constructive engagement formula has emboldened them to grow more defiant of world opinion and step up their attempts to turn away from the African majority who are denied virtually all the rights enunciated for the peoples of the world under the United Nations Human Rights Declaration of 1948.

Now, in a speech to mark this year's Human Rights Day, President Reagan, for the first time, publicly called on the apartheid regime to reach out to the African majority and bring about the desired change in that part of the world. This, for its face value, represents a momentous political development. It came in the wake of massive anti-apartheid demonstrations across the United States, and growing numbers of Republican congressmen in the United States challenged President Reagan to review his fraternization with South Africa. In addition, President Reagan met face to face with the South African churchman and 1984 Nobel laureate Bishop Desmond Tutu, who told him plainly that the policy of constructive engagement had been an unmitigated disaster. It is against this background that one could hazard a guess that the Human Rights Day speech of President Reagan marked a turning point in the link between his administration and the racist government in South Africa.

The flicker of hope for positive change indicated by the President's address should be sustained and translated into concrete action that would aid the progress toward the elimination of the horrors of apartheid. After all, the history of the United States itself, which is one of heroic struggles by the founding

fathers against political injustices, places a very strong moral obligation on that country to play a prominent role in liquidating apartheid. President Reagan is an inheritor of that glorious history. His reelection is an excellent opportunity for him to fashion out a new African policy which will place a premium on achieving Africa's long-standing main (?political) objective, that is, the liquidation of apartheid.

Normalizing Diplomatic Ties With Israel Viewed

AB160728 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT
15 Dec 84

[News analysis]

[Text] It was in 1973 that Nigeria broke diplomatic relations with Israel following the outbreak of hostilities that year between the Arabs and the Israelis. The decision to sever diplomatic ties with Israel was taken on a continental scale under the auspices of the OAU. As it has been pointed out, the immediate cause for this unprecedented move by the whole continent was the Israeli military invasion and occupation of Arab lands. In this move, one other factor has featured prominently in the diplomatic (?explosion) between Nigeria and Israel, making it even more difficult for the two countries to explore common grounds for any meaningful discussions.

That vital factor is the overwhelming evidence of Israeli military, nuclear, and economic collaboration with the racist regime in South Africa. This point alone countered the argument of those who reasoned that following the Camp David Accord between Egypt and Israel there was no longer any justifiable basis for the continued diplomatic isolation of Israel. Another serious issue that contributed to this diplomatic impasse is the continued Israeli denial of the Palestinian people's right to a homeland. There is no doubt that Israel would like to normalize relations with African countries. In her diplomatic offensive to achieve this goal, it has won over Zaire and Liberia to its side. But unfortunately, Israel's fraternal ties with the racist Pretoria regime, a regime that stands for all that is wicked, illegal, and inhuman, has done a lot of harm to Israel's public image and credibility in Africa.

It is rather sad that Israel does not recognize the fact that it shares an identical history of oppression and brutalization with blacks in South Africa. It is unthinkable that a country that suffered untold hardships, including massacre at the hands of Nazi Germany on racial grounds, openly arms South Africa with the instruments of death and repression to exterminate blacks who constitute over 70 percent of the South African population. The large-scale oppression and repression going on in South Africa has led to worldwide condemnation of the obnoxious policy that was [words indistinct]. That is why any country [passage indistinct] must be seen as an enemy of Africa.

A combination of circumstances has given Nigeria a prominent role to play in the affairs of Africa. The situation in South Africa is one that Nigerians had [words indistinct] Africa. Perhaps that is why General Buhari in his speech identifies South Africa as the greatest threat to Nigeria's national interest. Israel should also see the situation in the Middle East beyond the normaliza-

tion of relations between her and Egypt. The Palestinian conflict [words indistinct] to tranquility [words indistinct], we recognize and endorse the right of Israel to live in peace within secure and defendable borders, but in turn Israel should recognize the legitimate right of the Palestinians to a homeland they can call their own.

Israel's refusal to negotiate with the PLO on the grounds that it is a terrorist organization cannot serve the cause of peace in the Middle East. In fact, Israel's fraternal ties with the apartheid South African regime and her unfriendly attitude to her Arab neighbors are responsible for the present state of affairs between Nigeria and Israel. Therefore, until Israel takes positive steps to change the course of events, any hope of normalizing relations with Nigeria will remain what it is now. [sentence indistinct]

SAO TOME & PRINCIPE

Soviet Radar Station Reportedly Seen on Island

OW171153 Tokyo KYODO in English 1138 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Libreville, Gabon, Dec. 17 KYODO — Dr. Manuel Pinto da Costa, president of Sao Tome and Principe, has denied reports that the Soviet Union has been constructing ground-to-air and submarine bases in the small African island country in the Gulf of Guinea.

"There are no military bases of any foreign country, even a bicycle station, in our country," Da Costa said in a recent interview with a visiting group of Japanese journalists.

But the Japanese, the first media group from Tokyo to visit the country, later witnessed a Soviet radar site on Sao Tome Island, one of the two main islands.

In the interview, President da Costa said Cuba and other socialist countries greatly helped his country when it became independent from Portugal.

But, he added, this does not mean the African country is subject to Cuba and the Soviet Union.

The president discounted reports that the Soviet Union plans to turn the country into a major military outpost to replace the one in Angola.

The reports stemmed from growing speculation that Cuba may pull its troops out of the West African country.

In this respect, Justice and Information Minister Manuel Vaz Afonso Fernandes said his country has about 10 military advisers each from the Soviet Union and Cuba, and an estimated 1,500 Angolan troops.

They are training soldiers of Sao Tome and Principe, a country which only very rarely opens its door to Western journalists, according to Fernandes.

The country, located about 300 kilometers off the African Continent, has a population of 100,000 and is heavily dependent on cocoa as the source of export revenue.

Saying that the country hopes for economic aid from any country, the president said in the interview he wants Japan to help his country in modernization of its agriculture and increasing food production.

TOGO

France Cancels 2.5 Billion CFA in Debts

AB142055 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The excellent relations between Togo and France were marked this morning by the signing of various documents concerning the cancellation of debts owed to France by Togo within the framework of public aid for development granted to Togo by France. The debts amount to about 2.5 billion CFA francs.

The consignatories of these documents were: for the Republic of Togo, Komla Alipui, minister of finance and economy; and for France, Olivier (Dougnaux), director of the French Central Fund for Cooperation.

ANGOLA

President Congratulates Ceausescu on Reelection

*MB150626 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 15 Dec 84*

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA- Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, has congratulated Nicolae Ceausescu, head of the Socialist Republic of Romania, on his reelection as the secretary general of the Romanian Communist Party.

In a message published yesterday, the Angolan head of state says that the reelection of Nicolae Ceausescu constitutes an unequivocal demonstration of the support and sympathy he enjoys among the militant masses of the Romanian Communist Party. President Jose Eduardo dos Santos also congratulated the Romanian head of state on the successes achieved by the 18th Congress of the Romanian Communist Party, which defined the guidelines for Romania's economic and social development in the next 5-year period.

The supreme leader of the Angolan party and nation also reiterated the wish of even further strengthening the ties of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation existing between the two parties and peoples.

BOTSWANA

Vice President Reappointed Following Election

*MB150629 Gaborone Domestic Service in English
1612 GMT 14 Dec 84*

[Text] The President, Dr Quett Masire, has reappointed Mr Peter Mmusi vice president, following his election as specially elected member of parliament. The post went vacant in October, when the high court in Lobatse declared the result of the Gaborone South constituency null and void following the discovery of an unopened ballot box for the (?Chama) polling station.

The reelection of Mr Peter Mmusi as a specially elected member of parliament was approved by the national assembly on Wednesday. He is also the minister of finance and development planning. It has also been announced by the president that all the other members of the Cabinet will go on leave from the 17th of this month to 21 January next year.

Foreign Minister Returns From Togo, Burundi Meetings

*MB150552 Gaborone Domestic Service in English
1612 GMT 14 Dec 84*

[Text] The minister of external affairs, Dr Gaositwe K.T. Chiepe, has returned from Lome and Bujumbura, where she led the Botswana delegation to the signing of Lome III and the 11th Franco-African summit. She was in Lome, Togo, from 3 to 7 December attending the 37th session of the ACP [African, Caribbean, and Pacific] council of ministers. On 8 December she formally signed Lome III on behalf of the Republic of Botswana.

On (?the following day) Dr Chiepe left Lome for Bujumbura, Burundi, where she attended the 11th Franco-African summit, which ended on Wednesday.

LESOTHO

Prime Minister Says RSA Policies Must Change Now

*MB151234 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1130 GMT 15 Dec 84*

[Text] The prime minister, the Right Honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan, says that apartheid denationalizes black groups in South Africa by depriving them of their citizenship and forcibly removing them from areas in which they have lived to places they have never even seen before. Accepting the Dag Hammarskjold Peace Prize he was awarded today in the field of diplomacy, the prime minister said apartheid at the same time arrogates to the white minority large tracts of the most fertile part of the land. He said that it is a violent system which can only sustain itself through bloodshed and other forms of human suffering.

The prime minister said the evils of apartheid are no longer confined to South Africa but have spread their tentacles to neighboring countries in a manner calculated to affect their stability. He said Lesotho has found itself hosting an increasing number of freedom-loving South Africans of all races who flee into Lesotho from oppressive conditions in their country. Being a nation built out of refugees ourselves, we have had no alternative but to accept them in our midst, he added.

The prime minister, Dr Leabua Jonathan, said the raid on Maseru by the South African Defense Forces, in December 1982, was a climax in a series of orchestrated attacks previously launched from South African soil against Lesotho, mainly by proxy. We have also had to face economic hardships, such as virtual embargoes on goods, including security and other equipment, passing through South Africa to Lesotho, as well as unilateral closures by South Africa of our common borders, he added.

He said although the security equipment has now been released, it is worth mentioning that the embargo on it was on a pretext that we were going to pass it on to the ANC. He said apartheid stands in the way of good neighborly relations, which we were trying to improve, and creates refugees in the absence of whom relations had been relatively normal.

Dr Jonathan said Lesotho has reinstated [as heard] her long-standing policy of peaceful co-existence with her neighbors and urged on the necessity for peaceful change as opposed to violence in South Africa. He added that apartheid is a stumbling block to peace, and it is of no fruitful consequence to speak of peace in an atmosphere of apartheid. He said he is committed to speaking with our neighbors to convince them on the imperative need for the removal of apartheid, but so far he has not succeeded.

The prime minister said the present phase of armed struggle in South Africa is a direct consequence of the intransigence of apartheid. The ANC advocated change by peaceful means from its inception in 1912, but this approach failed because apartheid

did not have any room for dialogue between the white rulers of South Africa and the black majority. It is a result of this intransigence that people ultimately resorted to violence as a next alternative.

The prime minister said that the fact that after so many years it has still not grown possible to achieve change by peaceful means in South Africa places urgent responsibilities on organizations such as the Diplomatic Peace Academy, and the international community as a whole, particularly the Western countries led by the United States. That responsibility is to ensure that those like Dr Jonathan, who have always advocated peaceful change, do not lose credibility as the result of the failure of this approach. The imperative for the international community, including the big powers, is to recognize that the time for peaceful change is now and not tomorrow.

The prime minister said that the so-called constitutional reforms in South Africa, which exclude the black majority, have exacerbated the situation, and if nothing is done soon there is no way that the unprecedented racial explosion in South Africa could be stopped. He said he hoped the recent encouraging statement by President Ronald Reagan of America will result in more positive pressure on South Africa to dismantle apartheid.

The prime minister said the Dag Hammarskjold Peace Prize, which he accepted today, will give Basotho people vigor and determination to continue as a free, independent, and sovereign nation, always ready and willing to assist victims of apartheid. The award, he said, was an honor, not only to him but also the Basotho National Party, the nation, the country, and to the African Continent, which continues to strive so hard for peace. Cabinet ministers, chiefs, thousands of Basotho, and members of the diplomatic corps were present during the bestowal ceremony.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Receives Sao Tome Defense Minister

*MB151116 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0800 GMT 15 Dec 84*

[Text] President Samora Machel yesterday received in Maputo Major Oscar Aguiar Sacramento de Souza, the minister of defense and national security of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, the newspaper *NOTICIAS*, reveals in its edition today. During the audience, Marshal Samora Machel and the Sao Tome minister discussed bilateral relations and the current situation in southern Africa. Major Oscar Sacramento de Souza, who has been in our country for several days, was received in Maputo yesterday by Colonel Jose Oscar Monteiro, the minister of interior.

22 'Bandits' Killed in Maputo Province

*MB140843 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0400 GMT 14 Dec 84*

[Text] A total of 22 armed bandits were killed and two captured in Maputo Province between 2 and 12 December. One light weapon was captured. Three of the bandits were killed in the

Mugazine region of Matutuine District. Six others were annihilated in the (Matsequenha) region of Namaacha District. In addition to this the enemy suffered a number of wounded.

In the Sabie region of Moamba District, one armed bandit was killed. He had been assigned the task of reconnoitering the headquarters of the Sabie locality. Seven armed bandits were killed in the (Mafissine) area of the same locality. According to a statement issued by the Maputo military provincial command, another five bandits were killed in Manhica District.

NAMIBIA

BBC Reporter Arrested Under 'Secrets Act'

Gwen Lister Arrested

*MB141558 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1556 GMT 14 Dec 84*

[Text] Windhoek, Dec 14, SAPA — A Windhoek journalist, Miss Gwen Lister, was arrested at her home today, police said. Acquaintances of Miss Lister said she was taken into custody by the chief of the Windhoek CID [Criminal Investigation Division], Brigadier Piet Fouche. The police spokesman said possible charges were being investigated in terms of the Official Secrets Act and the Post Office Act.

Several Windhoek-based correspondents for South African media were questioned in Windhoek by police today. Miss Lister is among others, a freelance contributor to a BBC African program. Miss Lister, arrested at 3:45 pm today, said yesterday she had complained about a week ago to the Windhoek postmaster that her mail was disappearing from her post office box, after it had been sorted into the box.

On Wednesday, she received in her post office box a voucher for a registered article, addressed to the postmaster. Believing it was in response to her complaint, she fetched the letter and discovered it was an official communication to intercept all mail "addressed to and posted by G. Lister." The request was made in terms of Section 118A of Act 44 of 1958, which provides for mail to be examined by authorities on certain conditions. The document requested that her mail be intercepted for six months from December 3. Miss Lister said she had handed the document to her legal representatives "for action."

Questioned on Secret Document

*MB150919 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English
15 Dec 84 p 1*

[Article by Tony Weaver, Mail Africa Bureau]

[Excerpts] Windhoek — The South-West African correspondent of the British Broadcasting Corporation, Ms Gwen Lister, has been detained by the South-West African Police and will be charged under the Official Secrets Act. Ms Lister, 31, will also face charges under the Post Office Act, allegedly for illegally opening mail which was not addressed to her.

The chief of the Windhoek CID, Brigadier Piet Fouche, the deputy chief of the South African Security Police in SWA, Colonel Gert Badenhorst, and an unidentified policewoman, arrived at Ms Lister's Windhoek West House at 3:45 pm yesterday. They produced a warrant for her arrest in terms of both Acts, according to Mr David Salmon, sports editor of the *WINDHOEK ADVERTISER*, who was present at the time.

Yesterday the Security Police questioned three other journalists in Windhoek about articles written on Thursday night. The articles concerned a document, stamped "Uiters geheim", top secret, which the Security Police sent to Ms Lister by mistake. Signed by Lt Col C.F. Zietsman, the document was a letter to the SWA Postmaster-General, requesting that all Ms Lister's mail be intercepted.

I was telephoned by Colonel Badenhorst yesterday morning, and he asked me to come to Security Police headquarters to make a statement. I told him I had consulted with lawyers and they told me I should only talk to the Security Police in the presence of my attorney. "So you guys are playing it tough," Col Badenhorst said. He said he would contact me later in the day but never did.

Col Badenhorst also telephoned the editor of the *WINDHOEK ADVERTISER*, Mr David Pieters, and warned him that running the SAPA story could be a contravention of the Official Secrets Act. The *ADVERTISER* appeared on the streets yesterday afternoon with a massive "censored" written across the story in bold black letters.

Released; to Appear in Court

MB170705 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0600 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Security police in Namibia have released journalist Gwen Lister from detention. Lister had been held in terms of the Official Secrets Act and the Post Offices Act. She was detained after revealing the contents of a top secret note from police in Pretoria to the Namibian postmaster general asking him to intercept Lister's outgoing as well as incoming mail. Lister has been freed on 500 rand bail and on condition she surrenders her passport. She will appear in the Windhoek magistrate's court tomorrow to face charges under the Official Secrets Act.

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Interview on Relations with U.S.

MB142020 Johannesburg Television Service in Afrikaans
1830 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Interview with Foreign Minister Pik Botha on the "Nuusfokus" program by Freek Robinson: date and place not given — recorded]

[Announcer] In "Nuusfokus" tonight, Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha on relations with America. Good evening. In a series of rapidly following incidents, the relations between South Africa and the United Nations remain in the news headlines. Yesterday, America once again criticized the republic, while reaffirming

that it stands by its policy of constructive engagement, and at the United Nations, it has maintained that position. In tonight's program, Mr Botha gives his views in an interview with Freek Robinson.

[Begin recording][Robinson] Mr Botha, following the statements by President Reagan, in which he reacted fairly strongly towards South Africa, as well as the statements of our own president here in South Africa, would you say the relations between these two countries at present have deteriorated considerably?

[Botha] There is a new element, in that the President, even though he has now said aloud what he has always thought, nevertheless has now said it out loud, and he said it after Bishop Tutu has visited him, and I think we should simply tell our American friends that we do not like it. We do not like the fact that they so haughtily criticize certain aspects of steps taken by this government, without first informing themselves of the reasons for these steps.

[Robinson] Several times this week you have denied that the Reagan administration exerted pressure on South Africa, but President Reagan has claimed credit for the release of certain detainees in South Africa. Should we, then, accept that President Reagan may have done injury to the truth?

[Botha] There is a contradiction, he contradicted himself. You cannot flail South Africa on the one hand for its misdeeds, and then claim credit for yourself for the things you have achieved with the government of the country. It does not work that way. I think he contradicted himself a bit there. No, let us be honest with each other. Obviously, discussions are taking place with us. Not only from the American side, but inside the country as well. There are many South Africans inside the party that I represent, who approach the government when we take steps concerning the security of the country, and to whom the reason for our actions are now always clear.

There are moderate black leaders in South Africa who, as far as I am concerned, would have a greater influence on the government than outsiders, because where there are moderate black leaders who honestly seek, like the South African Government, security and stability in Southern Africa, we would much rather give them credit for steps towards stability than others. But no government can totally ignore outside opinion, that is also true. When we discuss these things in the Cabinet, we weigh the two sets of facts — the relative disadvantage that steps affecting the security of our country will have overseas, versus the need to maintain security in the country. When it is obvious that our security is at stake, the government has never yet hesitated to take the necessary steps, even if this brings extreme protests overseas.

[Robinson] But, as understood in general, the policy of constructive engagement is actually based on the premise that there should be a quid pro quo situation — that they would protect us for example, in the United Nations, provided South Africa does certain things. Now, to return to President Reagan's statements. Have they, in private, said that we should now take certain steps to at least make it easier for them in America?

[Botha] No. I am not aware of any such thing, it was not said to me. The discussions we have held with the United States in the past 4 years have dealt chiefly with the South-West Africa/Namibia question, with Mozambique, with relations with our neighbors, with the general situation in Southern Africa. Not much has been discussed about internal matters, because in the first place we so would not allow it. We do not discuss internal matters with other governments. There is no quid pro quo. There is no sort of I do this and you do that for me.

Besides, the president, then still prime minister, and myself made it very clear to South Africa at the time of President Reagan's first election that although we were of the opinion that things would be better than when President Carter was in power, and people like Andrew Young, and McHenry, his representatives at the United Nations. We did think things would be better, true, and this has proven to be the case. But we never had illusions that America could solve our problems. America has its own interests. It is a world power.

[Robinson] How seriously do you regard the demonstrations now taking place across the nation in America?

[Botha] I do not think we should underestimate them, just as we should not underestimate the United Nations. The United Nations may not have the ability to achieve anything constructive, but I do not think we should underestimate its ability to act destructively, negatively. It has that ability. There is a link between this worldwide action and these groups in the United Nations, and, to a large extent, those groups in the United Nations which are now demonstrating against us are the same people who, in the civil rights period, demonstrated against the American Government.

I am not saying they are insincere, all I am saying is their motives are [word indistinct], because, if they were really interested in the welfare of the black man, they they would know that today, every day, 14,000 black people are dying of hunger in Africa. They would know that there are really no elections in Africa, there are no trade unions north of the Limpopo which actually function and compete with governments. Eighty or 90 percent of the press belongs to the governments. So, these conditions which they cite regarding the blacks in South Africa, which they are fighting for — and they are lying about those things, they are lying, it is not at all as bad as they claim — but unfortunately these claims are believed. Perception is the devil against South Africa, not the truth.

[Robinson] But, Mr Botha, it is not only this pressure that you are talking about, which is happening in America, but even Congress members, and conservative Congress members, who are now saying they will no longer support South Africa. This cannot simply be brushed aside.

[Botha] I question the expression so-called conservative members. Many of those who are now presenting themselves as conservatives used to speak to me 3, 4 years ago, and at the time they had the same inclinations, the same inability to put in perspective South Africa and Africa. This is the type of person who has claimed the right to prescribe to us, demand of us, norms and standards which they demand nowhere else on earth. I regret to

say that if we must allow ourselves to be led, if these are the people who are to prescribe to South Africa, then the Progressive Party may as well rule the country, and they would do the same to them in the end, if the government of the day refuses to listen to their ideas, their particular norms, about how the government in this country should act.

[Robinson] But the problem is that they may get their own people in the Congress to accept legislation against us. Is this possible?

[Botha] It is a strong possibility, it is a danger against which we must be wary. We do try our best to carry on our campaign behind the scenes, with other elements in South Africa and abroad. I hope they do not succeed, but for South Africa it remains that much more important that we should have the ability, a domestic ability, not only to maintain our security, to defend our borders, but also to find solutions to our problems with which moderate people in South Africa will go along. We cannot — I want to make this very clear — we cannot satisfy foreign demands for reform, not this government, and I will go so far as to say, I can think of no democratic government which can satisfy the outside demands of reform in South Africa.

[Robinson] Minister, we are considered as a kind of polecat of the world. It is not a good thing to feel every day, like something the cat dragged in. Is there really nothing we can do, internally, in South Africa, to change that situation, or at least to minimize it?

[Botha] But just look at all we have done. Let me say again, it is only inside South Africa that we can bring about such change and reform which can be absorbed by our people, and which can maintain stability and civilized standards. We have learned over the years that we must (?maintain) those norms of Christianity, decency, and morality that we have set for ourselves as a nation, and I do not think we need to be ashamed of those norms. Why should the average American be a better person than the average South African? That is nonsense. We must remain true to those norms. If we do not remain true to those, then that is the end for us.

[Robinson] The people overseas, like President Reagan, listen to the black people and respond, as we have now seen. To what extent does the government also listen to those very same black people, or are they simply ignored?

[Botha] No, the government is constantly in contact with black leaders, but the question is, which leaders are speaking for who, and on whose behalf? Let us be frank. Can we accept that Chief Buthelezi, and Chief Minister Buthelezi, speaks on behalf of a significant number of black people? Yes or nor? And if we carry the comparison to Bishop Tutu, for whom does he speak? Where was he tested? Where is his proof of the support he has among black people in this country?

Naturally, the government is in contact, and its doors are open to black businessmen, black academicians. There are many areas of life today. Certainly there has never before been so much contact with black leaders and black figures in South Africa. I believe, for example, that there are very few moderate and responsible black leaders who think that our salvation lies in one man, one vote. It just is not true. You can imagine the chaos that

would reign here. But you see, when America says we must find a system by which those who are governed should have a say in the central system — that is easily said, it is very easily said. How are you going to put together such a system, which would cause less conflict?

The Cabinet committee, of which I am a member, that was appointed by the president, is giving the highest priority to all these maddening questions, to the whole question of citizenship, the whole question of the position of the black man — his political position, his social position — and we are not doing it like we did in the old days. Let me be honest. We are doing it together with these leaders. We invite the leaders to come and talk with us. It is not something we can achieve overnight. We want to be sure that we get the opinions of moderate, responsible leaders — and there are many in this country. We are busy with it. We should come up, one of these days, we hope, with packages of solutions, or packages of offerings from all sides.

But it will only succeed if there is a scaling down of demands. No government can satisfy all the demands, all the land demands and all the other demands that some of the black leaders are making in the country. No one can deny that the present president, more so than any other leader of South Africa, has taken this path, in which he believes with courage. We have progressed in the field of labor, who can argue that? Those were difficult issues. Job reservation has been done away with to a large extent. Look at sport. You know the pain and anguish we went through in the field of sport, and how many laws and regulations and practises had to be changed there. Ten years ago, you could not eat together in a restaurant or in a hotel, and today it is not strange.

In other words, this government is already doing the maximum, while maintaining the political power you need to do this, in order to bring about these very changes. And that should be our norm. Our norm should be what we can absorb internally, what our people here at home can accept, and, at the same time, what we believe to be right. I repeat, there are still changes that will have to be brought about. But honestly, anyone who is honest must admit there has been great progress in South Africa to bring about better relations between all our people, regardless of the color of their skins.

UN Envoy Says Arms Embargo Bound To Fail

*MB140846 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0600 GMT 14 Dec 84*

[Text] South Africa says the latest extension to the arms embargo against the country will not succeed. The UN Security Council voted unanimously yesterday to widen the embargo in a bid to foil the sale of South African-made weapons to foreign nations.

In a 15 to nil vote, the council reaffirmed its 1977 arms embargo and called on the nations of the world, in its words, to refrain from importing arms and ammunition of all types and military vehicles manufactured in South Africa.

After the resolution, South Africa's ambassador to the United Nations, Kurt von Schirnding, who denounced the original arms

embargo as ill-conceived and futile, said the new measure is bound to fail.

[Begin Von Schirnding recording] It is an illusion, Mr President, to believe that an attempt to hinder the export of arms by South Africa will succeed and it is an illusion to believe that our arms industry will thereby be hampered. [end recording]

ARMSCOR Reacts To UN Resolution

*MB141848 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 14 Dec 84*

[Text] In Pretoria, a spokesman for ARMSCOR [Armaments Development Corporation of South Africa] has said that, after studying the full text of the Security Council debate, the corporation stands by Mr Von Schirnding's statement. He said that ARMSCOR had nothing to add to what the South African ambassador had said during the debate.

UDF Meetings Banned Under Internal Security Act

*MB150533 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 15 Dec 84*

[Text] A meeting of the United Democratic Front [UDF], which was to have been held in the Regina Mundi Church in Soweto tomorrow, has been banned in terms of the Internal Security Act. The chief magistrate of Johannesburg, Mr George Schoeman, has also banned all other meetings of the UDF and organizations supporting the UDF. The ban also applies to all other meetings of this nature in the Johannesburg magisterial district, from 0800 this morning until 0800 on Monday morning. All meetings of the UDF have also been banned in the Krugersdorp magisterial district. The organization was to have held a meeting in a church today. The ban takes effect at noon today and lasts until 1800 tomorrow afternoon.

Judge Sets Aside Banning Order

*MB161148 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 16 Dec 84*

[Text] An order by the acting chief magistrate of Johannesburg, Mr G. Schoeman, in which a meeting of the United Democratic Front [UDF] in Soweto was banned, has been set aside by Mr Justice M. (Levinson). The decision follows an urgent appeal by the UDF, which was heard by the judge at his residence in Johannesburg this morning. The meeting is to be held at the Regina Mundi Church in Soweto.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Comments On U.S. Policy Toward RSA

*MB151159 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 15 Dec 84*

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kaunda, has welcomed U.S. President Ronald Reagan's recent human rights approach in South Africa. President Kaunda said this is a positive approach

to the situation and explained that Zambia does not dislike the United States but the Reagan administration's so-called constructive engagement with Pretoria.

Dr Kaunda has further reiterated Zambia's stand on Namibia, saying she does not accept the linkage between the territory's independence with the presence of Cuban troops in Angola. The president said Zambia's foreign policy is based on principles of international politics, warning that if a nation pursued unbridled self-interest the world would become very dangerous for human existence as every nation would become self-centered.

Ugandan Efforts To Rebuild Country Praised

*MB150528 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 14 Dec 84*

[Text] His Excellency President Kaunda has praised the Ugandans for rebuilding their country to what it was before the misrule of Idi Amin. Receiving a special message from Ugandan President Milton Obote yesterday through a special envoy Mr (Chris Rowasisi), the minister of state in the office of the president, Dr Kaunda noted that Uganda is now fairly reconstructed, with industries feeding on local raw materials. He said the development that has taken place after the Amin destruction is commendable and shames the Ugandan critics. Dr Kaunda added that Uganda has a classic history in that at one stage it had reached a point of where it was called the pearl of Africa but that development was now taking place after destruction.

In reply to the president's remarks, Mr (Rowasisi) said that Dr Kaunda's name and Zambia were sources of inspiration to Ugandans in their efforts to reconstruct their country, adding that they were looking forward to his visit to that country. Recalling Amin's murderous misrule, the envoy pointed out that Ugandans will continue to remember the assistance Zambia gave to them during the fight against dictator Amin.

Kaunda Cautions Against Leadership Accusations

*MB150658 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 15 Dec 84*

[Text] His Excellency President Kaunda has cautioned some people for their tendency of rushing to the press to condemn the entire leadership when one particular leader has made a mistake. He declared that the party and its government will not shield anybody, leader or follower, who is in [word indistinct] and at the same time the party does not want people to make wild allegations about the entire leadership.

He said there had been some wild accusations in the press and radio that leaders are corrupt or that they have amassed wealth or are not living up to the requirements of the leadership code. Dr Kaunda said such statements were not constructive but destructive and divisive. He said they did not serve the interests of the country but those of the interests of the enemies of the nation.

He pointed out that the party and its government had provided machinery for investigating allegations of corruption, leadership code violations, and abuse of power. He appealed to anybody who had information on such issues to pass that information to either the anti-corruption commission, the leadership court committee, or the commission for investigations, as the case may be.

Mulemba Notes Party in Financial Straits

*MB141028 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 14 Dec 84*

[Text] The party secretary general, Mr Humphrey Mulemba, has said that the party had undergone through severe financial problems last year and only relied on bank overdrafts. Mr Mulemba said in a report adopted by the National Council yesterday that whereas the party had budgeted for 15.95 million kwacha for expenditure, it only received 8.35 million kwacha in revenue.

The government grant was almost 6.8 million kwacha, while the party revenue from other sources mounted to 887,830 kwacha, compared to 1,061,884 kwacha in the preceding year.

Mr Mulemba said events like the second extraordinary meeting of the National Council, the general party conference, and the parliamentary and general elections, made it difficult for the party to operate within the limits of the budget, but noted that these were not only essential but historically significant and important to the nation and would not be avoided. He said the party resolved to employ 55 assistant accountants in 1983 to overcome weaknesses observed in the past by auditors in the control of expenditure.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Calls On Army to Maintain Discipline

*MB141904 Harare Domestic Service in English
1745 GMT 14 Dec 84*

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has called on the Zimbabwe National Army, ZNA, to maintain maximum vigilance and discipline in order to frustrate both internal and external enemies of Zimbabwe. Comrade Mugabe made the call when he reviewed a passing-out parade of the support arms of the ZNA in (Chakari) today.

He said the availability of reliable arms will sharpen the edge of the [word indistinct] defense capacity of the Army. Comrade Mugabe noted that (?human) qualities include the (?expertise) of soldiers [words indistinct] reliable weapons.

He said the ZNA must continue to reassure the citizens that independence, [word indistinct] and territorial integrity are safe, and will be defended successfully. The prime minister paid tribute to the PRC for providing personnel to train members of the ZNA. He noted that this demonstrates the growing cooperation between the two countries.

Emergency Power Supply Pact Signed With Mozambique

MB141922 Harare Domestic Service in English

1745 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Zimbabwe and Mozambique today signed an emergency power supply agreement. The accord will enable the two countries to supply each other with electricity should there be an emergency. The general manager of the Electricity Supply Com

mission [ESC], Dr (Subragata), signed on behalf of Zimbabwe ESC, and Comrade (Fernando Gulio) signed on behalf of his country's electricity supply organization. The project involving about 400,000 dollars, will be financed by the (?Norwegian) aid organization. The agreement was signed as delegates from Southern African Development Coordination Conference countries attended the (?first) electricity and utilities seminar.